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Govt vows to avoid 'shameful repeat of robodebt'

Karen Barlow, Miriam Webber

THE Albanese government insists it is acting to ensure nothing like the "shameful" robodebt scandal ever happens again, accepting 49 of the recommendations made by the robodebt royal commission in full, and agreeing to seven more in principle.

Though it accepted 56 recommendations in some form, it did not back a closing observation from commissioner Catherine Holmes calling for increased transparency around Cabinet documents.

Commissioner Holmes argued a section of the Freedom of Information Act should be repealed, to scrap a guarantee of confidentiality for cabinet documents. A justifiable reason should be given for withholding such information, the royal commission report states.

But the government maintained that cabinet documents should be confidential so that public servants and ministers can express their "frank and fearless advice" and views. Public Service Minister Katy Gallagher placed ultimate responsibility for the unlawful scheme on former Coalition ministers, but recognised the role of the federal public service in rolling out the scheme.

"There's no doubt that the illegal robodebt scheme was a shameful chapter in public administration in Australia," Senator Gallagher said.

"What we saw in terms of the former government's approach to the public service was one of a lack of respect and a lack of value of that institution."

|| Continued Page 10

Greens failed to tell speaker about Davis

Jasper Lindell

THE ACT Greens failed to immediately notify the Legislative Assembly's speaker about allegations of sexual misconduct by one of its members despite a clear policy requirement to do so.

In the wake of Johnathan Davis's resignation over allegations he had sex with a 15 year old and an improper, but not illegal, relationship with a 17 year old, Labor and

ALSO INSIDE

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the Greens have exchanged a war of words over the minor coalition partner's handling of the matter.

Emma Davidson, a Greens minister, was also revealed to have known about "rumours" of Mr Davis' behaviour a week before Greens leader Shane Rattenbury.

Mr Rattenbury took aim at the Labor party, calling a statement from Deputy Chief Minister Yvette Berry expressing concern in the Greens' handling of the allegations "highly inappropriate".

Mr Rattenbury, who is also

Attorney-General, defended the time it took for complaints to be referred to police, saying the party needed to be sure it was not simply "acting on what could be an untrue rumour".

"I think one needs to look at the Labor party's statement last night and question the Labor party's integrity on this matter. For them to try and create a political advantage out of the most difficult and sensitive issue my party

has ever faced reflects very poorly," he said.

Speaker Joy Burch on Monday said she found out about the allegations made against Mr Davis, who subsequently resigned late on Sunday night, by reading *The Canberra Times*.

Opposition Leader Elizabeth Lee asked Mr Rattenbury whether the party had referred the complaint to Ms Burch.

|| Continued Page 4

NEWS

The Canberra Times

VOLUME 98 | NUMBER 32,308

TIMES PAST

November 14, 1993

In 2023 it would be hard to imagine rooms full of passive smoke from cigarettes and cigars while trying to eat lunch or dinner. But this was a reality when The Canberra Times reported on this day in 1993, that the health minister at the time was pushing to have non-smoking laws introduced in restaurants and cafes. The ACT health minister, Wayne Berry, was going to be pressing ahead with his proposed legislation for smoke free restaurants, despite attacks from the Australian Hotels Association. Mr Berry had suggested legislation which would ban smoking in all restaurants and cafes whose primary business was serving food. This would include those in clubs and hotels. The AHA had made repeated claims such a ban would hit both youth employment and revenue from heavy smoking tourists. Mr Berry said: "The AHA



will use any tactic in their campaign to continue the consumption of tobacco. They ought to be joining in the campaign to reduce tobacco consumption rather than campaigning against change." Mr Berry said 70 per cent of people did not smoke and even a lot of smokers wanted no smoking in restaurants. Far from harming the hospitality trade, non-smoking restaurants would be likely to increase patronage, he said. Mr Berry said the AHA's claim that the case against passive smoking was unproven flew in the face of a mountain of scientific evidence to the contrary. Visit: trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/13973893



Rabea Fares, and inset, Lina Faris, outside court. Pictures by Tim Piccione

'Deliberate lies' told after 'staged' crash

Tim Piccione

A WOMAN gave multiple accounts of an alleged "staged" car crash that "don't add up or make a lot of sense", a court has heard.

"The devil is often in the detail," prosecutor Morgan Howe told an ACT Supreme Court jury on Monday.

Lina Faris and husband Rabea Fares both deny numerous charges, including attempting to, by deception, dishonestly obtain a financial advantage from someone else.

The married couple are accused of taking part in a staged car crash on Duffy's Eucumbene Drive in February 2020 in order to make multiple allegedly fraudulent insurance claims.

Following the crash, the pair filed claims for the black Audi SUV Faris was driving on the day and third party claims for injuries they both suffered.

The Audi was insured for \$55,000.

In his closing address, on the trial's fifth day, Mr Howe said Faris gave "various versions" of the crash to authorities and the woman was unable to stick to one account when probed.

"Telling deliberate lies to try and arouse as little suspicion about the circumstances of the collision," Mr Howe said.

The differing versions, the prosecutor said, included telling police and insurers the Audi was travelling in two different directions, and that she did or did not speak to a woman who falsely claimed to have been driving the BMW.

Mr Howe said Faris also lied about driving at 60kmh in the middle of the road when she was hit, after police evidence indicated the car had been stationary and parked on the side of the road on impact.

"What role did she actually play?" Faris' barrister, Dean Ager, asked the jury during his closing address.

Mr Ager said there was no evidence his client knew Adam Hasan Kilani, the man who was driving the BMW, and that it was plausible Fares' whiplash injuries had affected her ability to recount details.

The court heard Fares, the Audi's passenger, and Kilani knew each other through work.

Kilani previously pleaded guilty to attempting to, by deception, obtain a financial advantage from someone else and dangerous driving.

Mr Ager also said there was no evidence Faris knew of "any plan" for Kilani to crash into her car or that she knew the man would then make his own insurance claims.

Both she and Fares are facing charges of being "knowingly concerned" with Kilani's fraudulent claim.

Barrister Todd Pickering, representing Fares, told jurors the accused man had no financial motivation to stage the crash.

"He's doing quite well, financially," the barrister said, noting there was no evidence submitted of Fares being in financial distress. "It doesn't make any sense."

Mr Pickering conceded that his client had been in phone contact with Kilani three-and-a-half hours, being "quite some time", before the accident.

The barrister said there was no evidence of further communication between the two men on the day in question or in following days. "That's not consistent with some kind of staged accident," Mr Pickering said.

"You might think if they were really in cahoots, there might have been some communication later that evening, the next day, the next week."

Fares, who was knocked unconscious during the crash, told authorities he did not recall any details about the incident.

The jury is set to retire for deliberations on Tuesday.

ACT private school car park dispute in tribunal

Sarah Lansdown

A LONG-RUNNING dispute over a private school car park that was installed without development approval is being heard in the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The tribunal heard on Monday Brindabella Christian College received advice in 2012 that they would need to submit a development application to upgrade the gravel car park between the Lyneham campus and public oval.

Plans to redevelop the land into a sports facility in 2015 were met with strong community opposition.

In February 2016, the school attempted to purchase the land, which it was and still is using under a sublease from the ACT government.

The school went ahead with sealing the car park later in 2016 without purchasing the land or submitting a development application.

The Lyneham Community Association appealed a decision by the ACT Planning and Land Authority to refuse to make a controlled activity order relating to the car park. Brindabella Christian College has since joined as a party to the tribunal proceedings.

The association has argued the car park poses safety risks to pedestrians, including children walking to Lyneham Primary School.

The ACT government said removing the 100-space car park would create safety problems and congestion in nearby streets.

However, keeping the car park in the current place would require a change to zoning in the territory plan.

Senior member Michael Orlov said there could be alternatives to the car park, such as the school applying to buy the land or negotiating with Saint Ninian's Uniting Church to use their car park.

"It seems to me there are lots of alternatives potentially," Mr Orlov said.

And the issue that the tribunal will require assistance with is where the public interest lies.

School maintenance manager Craig O'Mara told the tribunal the school board chair Greg Zwajgenberg said the school owned the land and instructed him to organise for the car park to be sealed in 2016.

Public hearings are expected to continue on November 14 and 15.

CORRECTION

An opinion piece published on November 11 referred to Shell paying zero dollars in corporate tax, based on the latest Corporate Tax Transparency report by the ATO. The ATO has since corrected those figures to reflect that Shell Energy Holdings Australia Limited paid \$117,507,887 on revenue of \$8.970m, not \$0 as was originally published by the ATO.

TODAY'S WEATHER

CANBERRA Min 7 Max 27

Partly cloudy
Chance of any rain: 20%

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The chance of fog in the early morning. Slight chance of a shower. Light winds becoming north to northwesterly 15 to 20 kmh in the early afternoon.

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Division 4: \$25.55

Division 5: \$17.65

Division 6: \$8.40

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PMs aplenty, but what about the others?

Sally Pryor

HE MAY have been prime minister for just eight days, but Francis Forde still gets a special plaque in the Canberra suburb named after him.

Same goes for Arthur Fadden - famously lasting 40 days and 40 nights in office - and Earle Page, who was just 20 days in the top job.

But they, along with 14 other former prime ministers, have the honour of special signage in the Canberra suburbs named after them.

Hardly any of the 110-odd other suburbs have any similar kudos, despite the many fascinating stories that go with the name.

And three former ACT chief ministers think it's time this changed.

Kate Carnell, Gary Humphries and Jon Stanhope, all agree that there's no reason why all of Canberra's suburbs shouldn't have a sign explaining where their name comes from.

The three former leaders met on Monday morning at a busy roundabout at the intersection of Fadden, Gilmore, Chisholm and Macar-

thur - only one of which gets the special sign.

And their political differences well and truly took the backseat as all three wondered why, during their respective times in office, they had never considered the inequity of special signage only for prime ministers.

The meeting was insti-

gated by Canberra lawyer Andrew Fraser, a former chief of staff at *The Canberra Times* and son of Jim Fraser, the lone parliamentary representative for the ACT from 1951 to 1970.

Mr Fraser senior, who died in 1970, was honoured with a suburb, but hardly anyone would know this, thanks to

the unfortunate coincidence of a subsequent prime minister with the same surname.

But the naming of Fraser long preceded the death of Malcolm Fraser, and regardless, there is no signage to set the record straight.

"The names of suburbs in Canberra are important, and they have been put in place

for reasons," Ms Carnell said.

"So what is just unacceptable, really, is it's only the prime ministers who have got plaques up to explain why a particular suburb was named the way it was. The others, no one would know."

Mr Humphries said it was important for people to understand why suburbs

and streets have the names they do.

"I'm a great believer in history guiding us into the future," he said.

"We study what's happened in the past, to tell us how we should behave and what we should expect in the future. So knowing about our history, knowing about the people that both built our city and built our country is really important."

Mr Stanhope pointed out that it was reasonable to create special signs for suburbs named for prime ministers, but why stop there?

"It seems to me like a clear oversight, and I think Gary, and Kate and I would acknowledge that we're probably sorry we didn't think of it," he said. "Now that it's been raised, I can't think of a single reason or argument against proceeding and appropriately signposting every suburb in Canberra."

An ACT government spokesman said while it was easy to find out about ACT suburb names online, the proposal to install signs in every suburbs was "worth considering".



Former ACT chief ministers Jon Stanhope, Kate Carnell and Gary Humphries. Picture by Sally Pryor

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Davidson knew Davis 'rumours' earlier

Jasper Lindell

GREENS minister Emma Davidson was aware of "rumours" circulating about Johnathan Davis' behaviour a week before party leader Shane Rattenbury was informed and commissioned an internal investigation.

Ms Davidson said a staff member brought information about Mr Davis' conduct to the party through her, and she defended a decision not to immediately refer the matter to police.

"In order to be able to make referrals to other authorities, we needed to better understand the nature of the

information that had come to our attention," Ms Davidson said on Monday.

Ms Davidson said she first received information a "few steps removed" from a then 17 year old who has detailed allegations relating to a relationship with Mr Davis.

"I had no involvement in the investigation, or gathering of information," she said in a later statement, which said she supported staff in taking the allegations to the party's executive chief of staff "without delay".

Mr Rattenbury said he fully supported Ms Davidson's approach in taking the report seriously and treating

it "with the respect and care that it deserved".

The Greens on Monday released an internal report that was handed to Mr Rattenbury on Friday, outlining the timeline of the party's handling of the allegations. The handling has been criticised by ACT Labor and the Canberra Liberals.

The report concluded Mr Davis had "undertaken activity which may be considered unethical and inappropriate, which does not align with community expectations and is likely to bring himself and the ACT Greens into disrepute".

The report, written by Mr

Rattenbury's chief of staff, said Ms Davidson texted him on Sunday, October 29 to alert him to a "serious issue" she needed to discuss the following morning.

On Monday, October 30 at 8am, Ms Davidson and two other members of staff informed Mr Rattenbury's chief of staff there were "rumours circulating about Mr Davis engaging in inappropriate behaviour with younger people, and that it was possible that some of those people might be between 15 and 17".

"At this point, those rumours could not be substantiated and there were no

individuals coming forward with any specific information," the report said.

On Monday, November 6, Ms Davidson, Mr Davis and Mr Rattenbury's chief of staff met to discuss the accusation and inform Mr Davis he needed to share the accusation with Mr Rattenbury.

Mr Rattenbury commissioned an internal review on Tuesday, November 7 "to establish the facts of what we know, rather than to decide on a course of action for Mr Davis".

It was later that day, the report said, the party first received any evidence of a specific complaint about Mr

Davis' behaviour. The chief of staff met with a young person who detailed his relationship with Mr Davis, and later provided the party with material that showed evidence of their relationship.

The chief of staff wrote he was unclear whether illegal conduct had occurred and as a result felt obliged to report the information to police. This report was made at 10am on Friday, November 10, the chief of staff said, adding: "ACT Policing assured me that they would in the first instance talk to the person making the accusations and seek their advice on how they wished to proceed."

Labor lashes ACT Greens' handling of allegations

Jasper Lindell

DEPUTY Chief Minister Yvette Berry has criticised the Greens' handling of allegations Johnathan Davis had sex with a minor and an inappropriate relationship with a teenager, adding it was troubling complainants had felt the need to go public.

Ms Berry said there was frustration in the community and among ACT Labor members on how the serious allegations had been handled this week. Mr Davis' position had clearly become untenable, she said.

"Canberrans need confidence that allegations of this nature, no matter the profile of the people involved, will be handled sensitively. There are many questions that I have, that the ACT Labor caucus has, and that the community will likely have on how this episode was handled by the ACT Greens throughout the past week," Ms Berry said in a statement on Sunday night.

A lawyer for Mr Davis confirmed, late on Sunday night, Mr Davis had written to Speaker Joy Burch to formally resign from the Assembly and had separately written to the Greens to quit his party membership.

Ms Berry said it was troubling individuals involved felt it necessary to go public with their experiences to get action.

"I'm sorry that they have had to go through this ordeal in such a public way," she said.

Ms Berry, who is acting Chief Minister, said it was right police had been told.



Shane Rattenbury, centre, flanked, from left, by Rebecca Vassarotti, Jo Clay, Andrew Braddock and Emma Davidson. Picture by Karleen Minney

Davis was 'unethical, inappropriate': review

■ From Page 1

The referral was a requirement of the Assembly's child safety code of conduct and policy.

Mr Rattenbury was unable to say whether the party had referred the complaint to the speaker and took the question on notice.

Complaints about members of the Assembly must be referred to the Speaker under the policy, which also says members will not "be alone with a child or young person unnecessarily" or "arrange personal contact, including online contact, with a child or young person for a purpose unrelated to

official activities".

Potential criminal conduct must be referred to the police, the policy, adopted in September 2022, said.

A young person, now aged 18, has alleged he and Mr Davis had a sexual relationship and had extensive conversations on a dating app, where Mr Davis allegedly solicited intimate photographs. Mr Davis, through a lawyer, has declined to comment on the allegations.

Mr Rattenbury on Monday said the Greens were aware of the claim of sharing intimate images, which, if proved, would be a breach of

Commonwealth law.

Ms Burch said she would be seeking information to determine what action she would take, and is considering whether an investigation is required to consider the serious allegations made against Mr Davis.

The Greens released an internal party review into the allegations made against Mr Davis, which was handed to Mr Rattenbury on Friday and concluded Mr Davis had undertaken "unethical and inappropriate" conduct.

The conduct "did not align with community expectations, and is likely to bring himself and the ACT Greens

into disrepute".

Mr Rattenbury also revealed the party had counselled Mr Davis a "couple of years ago" for having a relationship that was "not acceptable" with a staff member who worked at the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Davis, by resigning, had clearly understood the seriousness of these matters, Mr Rattenbury said, but later added Mr Davis had told him he believed he had done nothing illegal.

In defending the party's handling of the complaint, Mr Rattenbury said he had been dismayed by Ms Berry's statement released

on Sunday night, which said the Labor caucus had unanswered questions over the incident.

"Every single member of Labor caucus has my telephone number and my email address. Not one of them contacted me," Mr Rattenbury said.

The Greens leader said the party would reflect on its handling of the allegations but said he thought it had got to police "in a reasonably short time".

Mr Rattenbury said the Greens did not know the identity of a 15 year old who Mr Davis is alleged to have had sex with.

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NEWS

TRANSPORT Halls of power add extra charge to People's House

Parliament to be EV charging polestar

Karen Barlow

ELECTRIC vehicle charging is now under way in the public underground car park at Parliament House, in a first for the National Triangle and setting the People's House as the largest EV charging station in Canberra.

Parliament's presiding officers, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Milton Dick and Senate President Sue Lines on Monday symbolically did the "first charge" with one of 10 public EV chargers, out of an eventual 58 in the building. They are sited in the upper section of the car park close to main building's entrance.

There will be a charge to use the 7kW and 22kW chargers which will be available on the Exploren public charging network. Two of the chargers have been reserved for EV with accessible requirements. Parliamentary officials have also outlined that the remaining 48 EV chargers are expected to be installed in the Ministerial, Senate and House of Rep-

resentatives car parks in the coming months.

The presiding officers have, as a "big priority", an aim to make the Australian Parliament one of the greenest and cleanest in the world.

"It's important that the Parliament leads by example,

whether that be reducing our waste, whether that be using energy-efficient lighting, whether it be using all the technologies that we have," Mr Dick told reporters.

"This is just one part of making the Parliament of Australia, the cleanest and

greenest it can be.

"It's a big priority for me as Speaker and the President. But I would like to see that we are leading by example. From little things, big things grow.

"And I'm hopeful here that the example of Parliament

House will be an example for other Parliament's across Australia, businesses and community as well."

Following through on leading by example, Mr Dick said he does not have an EV but told ACM, publisher of this masthead, he was

"looking at the options very closely now that we've got all of this new technology here at Parliament House".

Senator Lines revealed she signed up for an MG EV three years ago.

"I'm now on my second MG so I want to create that second-hand market to make EVs even more accessible and I have a Kona in Western Australia which I'm very happy with. Sorry, Tesla!" she said, to laughs.

The Parliament House charging project has been undertaken in partnership with local energy provider ActewAGL. The ACT government has a target of achieving at least 180 public chargers online by 2025. More than 100 have already been installed in the ACT and ActewAGL is contracted to install a further 100 across the next 12 months.

Parliament House is one of the most visited buildings in Australia with more than 800,000 annual visitors, while the ACT has become a national leader in electric vehicle take-up.



Senate President Sue Lines and House Speaker Milton Dick at the launch of the first electric vehicle charging station at Parliament House. Picture AAP





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Low income renters priced out of ACT

Natalie Vikhrov

CANBERRA has become the second most affordable capital for renters in an average income household, but pensioners and those on JobSeeker payments are among the many "priced out" of the market, according to a new report.

The annually released National Shelter-SGS Economics and Planning Rental Affordability Index found that median rents have dipped slightly in the ACT over the past year but it is largely the worsening rental market in other cities that has placed Canberra near top of the lea-

derboard.

The result is an improvement on last year, when rental affordability in the ACT fell to the lowest level since 2013 and jurisdiction was rated among the worst for renters.

But while the report describes Canberra as being "on the border of acceptable affordability", it's only outer suburbs near Tuggeranong and Gungahlin that have "returned to acceptable levels of rent" and that's for households with a gross annual income of \$126,248 - the highest in the country.

Suburbs in central Canberra are "moderately unaffordable" even for the medi-

an income household.

The rental situation is much more dire for low income households - including students in share housing and pensioners - for whom every suburb in Canberra is unaffordable to extremely unaffordable.

A spend of 30 to 38 per cent of income on rent is considered unaffordable, while 38 to 60 per cent is classified as severely unaffordable and anything above 60 per cent is extremely unaffordable.

National Shelter chief executive Emma Greenhalgh said for low-income households this means having to make difficult decisions

around essential expenditure, which could include spending less on food or foregoing heating and cooling.

She said some households might also look to moving somewhere more affordable, which means potentially moving away from family, friends and their support network.

"That has a really significant impact," she said.

The report found that a single pensioner on \$36,691 would spend 67 per cent of their total income to rent a one-bedroom dwelling in the ACT.

Meanwhile, a single per-

son on a JobSeeker payment, earning just over \$22,000 would have to spend more than their entire annual income to rent a one-bedroom in the ACT.

It comes amid a drop in social and affordable housing stock, compared to a decade ago.

Ms Greenhalgh said investment in social and affordable housing, including through the Housing Australia Future Fund, were a welcome move but "enhancements" to Commonwealth rental systems were also much needed.

May's Federal Budget included a 15 per cent boost

to maximum rates of Commonwealth rent assistance for more than a million Australians.

The increase was the largest in decades but Ms Greenhalgh said it was still not "keeping pace with the way that rents are increasing".

She also pointed to the ACT laws that limit rent rises to 10 per cent above the consumer price index as among models that needed to be replicated nationally.

"We would [also] particularly like to see some meaningful tax reform around capital gains, tax discounts and negative gearing," she said.

Optus reveals cause of network outage

OPTUS is blaming a software upgrade for an outage that left millions without phone connections and internet services.

A 12-hour outage on Wednesday left 10 million individuals and businesses unable to make or receive calls, or complete transactions. The company said in a statement on Monday the cause was now known and steps had been taken to ensure it won't happen again.

"At around 4.05am Wednesday morning, the Optus network received changes to routing information from an international peering network following a routine software upgrade," the company said.

"These routing information changes propagated through multiple layers in our network and exceeded preset safety levels on key routers which could not handle these. This resulted in those routers disconnecting from the Optus IP Core network to protect themselves."

The time taken to restore the system was longer than anticipated as some of the routers needed to be physically rebooted, requiring Optus staff to be deployed across a number of sites across the country.

"The restoration of the network was at all times our priority and we subsequently established the cause working together with our partners," the telco said. "We have made changes to the network to address this issue so that it cannot occur again." Optus will co-operate with reviews launched by the government and the Senate.



CPSU National Secretary Melissa Donnelly. Picture by Gary Ramage

'Do better on pay': more strikes over APS offer

Karen Barlow

THE main public sector union is attempting to pull the Albanese government back to the bargaining table over the APS-wide pay negotiations, announcing early morning strike action on Tuesday for the two agencies that stopped work earlier this month.

Community and Public Sector Union has advised that members in the Fair Work Ombudsman and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations plan to stop work for two hours from 8.30am over the government's pay

There is a clear and simple fix here.

Melissa Donnelly

deal of 11.2 per cent over three years.

It follows the one-hour strike by members at the ombudsman and DEWR on November 2 and two rounds of one-hour strikes last week by meat inspectors and on-plant veterinarians in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

CPSU national secretary

Melissa Donnelly said APS employees are happy with the government's offer on conditions, but it needs to "do better" on pay.

"There is a clear and simple fix here," she said in a statement. "The CPSU wants to see a package on the table that APS employees can proudly get behind, and we believe the government wants that too."

"The conditions package that has been negotiated contains industry-leading working from home rights, an increase to casual loading, significant improvements to paid parental leave and enhanced job security

provisions.

"But APS employees want to see the government do better on pay."

Members in the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on Monday returned a ballot in support of protected industrial action over the pay offer.

The majority of the 171 people who voted indicated support for strikes up to 1 hour, up to 24 hours and bans on working overtime.

Minister for the Public Service Katy Gallagher has insisted there is no new revised offer in the works.

"They've said no to us once. We came back. We

revised the offer. We've improved the conditions. We've employed more staff. We've done a lot in the last 18 months. So I think we're probably close, but we haven't got there yet," the senator said earlier this month.

"We want to be a model employer. We want to work with the unions, but ultimately, we want to give our staff a pay rise. And some of those staff are potentially getting pay raises between 20 and 30 per cent."

The Canberra Times sought fresh comment from the minister but did not hear back before print deadline.

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Crossbench cracks down on political integrity

Justine Landis-Hanley

SWEEPING reforms could force politicians and lobbyists to publicly declare their meetings and bar senior government advisers from working as lobbyists for three years, as the crossbench moves to crack down on the industry.

Integrity was on the agenda for the first day of sitting week, with members of the crossbench attempting to shine a light on lobbyists, pork-barrelling, and the treatment of whistleblowers.

Independent MP Monique Ryan kicked off Monday by introducing legislation into the House of Representatives that, if passed, would force ministers to release their diaries, and create a more comprehensive publicly searchable lobbyist register.

The announcement came off the heels of a report by *The Australian Financial Review* that gambling executives took Communications Minister Michelle Rowland to lunch on her birthday last year in the private dining room at Melbourne's Society Restaurant - a move Dr Ryan said did not pass "the sniff test".

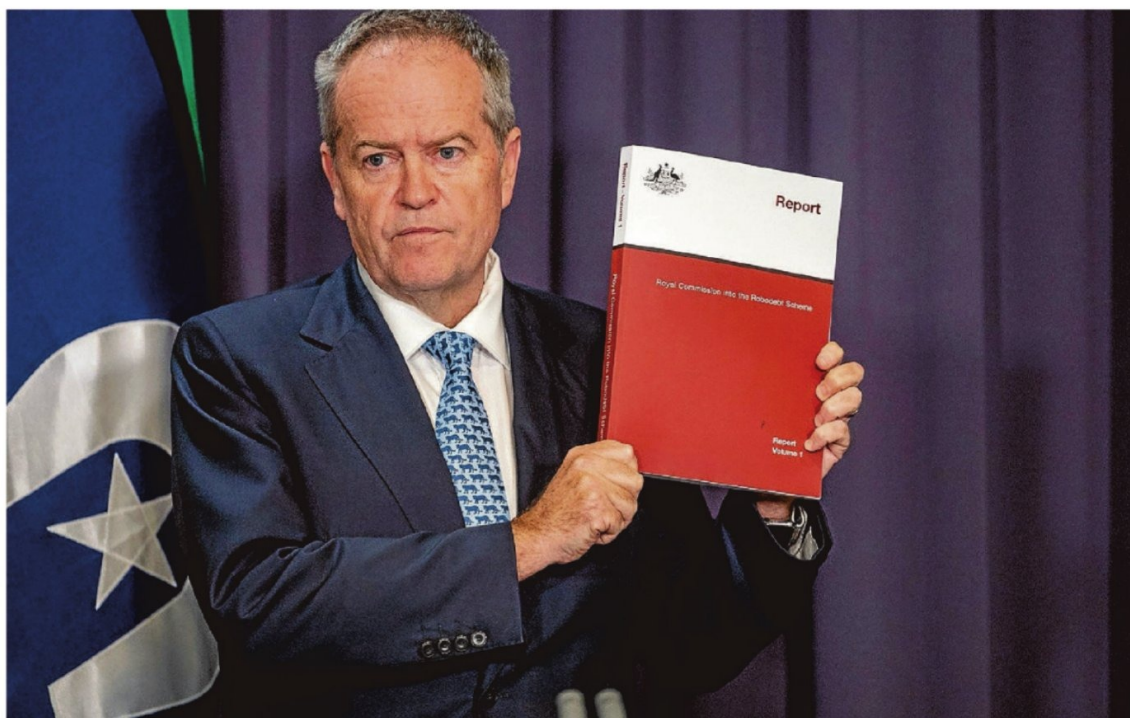
The proposed changes - which Dr Ryan said so far only have broad crossbench and Greens support - would also bar ministers and senior government advisers from being able to take up lucrative private sector jobs lobbying or advising in their portfolios for three years.

Meanwhile, independent member for Indi Helen Haines moved a motion - seconded by the Liberal Party's Bridget Archer - calling on the government to introduce legislation reforming the administration of public grants.

Dr Haines wants to see grant guidelines and selection criteria made clear and publicly available, and require the government to report when grants are awarded contrary to advice given to the minister.

"Soon we'll be back into election mode. And we know that election mode is pork-barrelling season. It needs to stop, we need to put that in place," she said.

Greens spokesperson for justice David Shoebridge tried to suspend standing orders to move a motion relating to whistleblower David McBride, whose trial began in the ACT Supreme Court this week.



Government Services Minister Bill Shorten in July with the robodebt royal commission report. Picture by Gary Ramage

No more 'war on poor': Shorten

|| From Page 1

"Whilst ministers have to bear the ultimate responsibility for the robodebt scheme ... the way the former government treated the public service certainly led to failings within the administration of the public service itself," Senator Gallagher said.

Tabled more than four months after Commissioner Holmes handed down her 990-page findings on the scheme, the government's response does not shed light on investigations into individuals adversely named in the report.

The Public Service Commission has commenced inquiries into 16 individuals - including current and former APS employees, and former agency heads - following referrals from the royal commission. The Australian Federal Police in July said they received one report of a crime from the robodebt royal commission, while referrals were also made to the National Anti-Corruption Commission.

The debt-collecting scheme ran under the former Coalition government, from 2015 until 2019, when the Solicitor-General found it to be unlawful.

It automatically raised debts against social welfare recipients by comparing their reported income with averaged annual pay data from the Tax Office.

Recommendations implemented include improving training and record-keeping

and privacy protections and setting clearer guardrails around the use of automated processes and the like, are worthy.

And they sit within broader changes like the government's push to reform and strengthen the Australian Public Service, to rejig the ministerial code of conduct, replace the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, grant greater powers to the Commonwealth Ombudsman and reinstate the Administrative Review Council.

But one glaring area where

in the APS, a "customer service" focus within Services Australia and review of the structure of the social services portfolio.

The Public Service Commissioner will be empowered to make disciplinary declarations against former APS employees and former agency heads, requiring amendments to the Public Service Act.

Government Services Minister Bill Shorten said there had been 26 recommendations in his portfolio, with work already under way to move on a lot of the recommendations.

"Even in the last week, we've announced 3000 extra staff to make sure that we can process payments in a timely and accurate

fashion," he said. "We've stopped using external debt collectors, which was a feature of the previous scheme under robodebt."

"We're improving our communications with people who use our system."

"Most importantly, under the Albanese government, we don't think that people who use our social security system are second-class Australians."

"We do not believe in a war on the poor."

But advocacy group, The Antipoverty Centre, called on the government to immediately cease debt collection.

"There is no humane way to living money from people extracting in poverty who cannot afford the basics," the centre's spokesperson

Kristin O'Connell said in a statement.

Community and Public Sector union national secretary Melissa Donnelly said members would be "relieved to hear" the government's response to the royal commission but noted the seven areas agreed to only in principle.

"The CPSU will be working to ensure the intent of those recommendations are properly implemented, particularly regarding the need for more 'face to face' support for customers and increased social workers," she said in a statement.

"Our members in Services Australia are hopeful that this government is turning the ship around and I urge the Albanese government not to let them down."

Fine robodebt sentiments may not survive

ADRIAN ROLLINS
ANALYSIS



THE federal government says it is making changes to ensure something like robodebt never happens again. Unfortunately, even if all the changes recommended by the royal commission are implemented, it could.

The government acknowledges as much in the fourth paragraph of its response to the commission's findings.

"The recommendations

are not - in and of themselves - enough to prevent another robodebt scheme," the government admits.

As commissioner Catherine Holmes made clear in her report, this is because robodebt was, ultimately, the product of a political culture and environment that demonised those in need of government assistance.

The reforms recommended by the commission, which will help buttress the public service in assessing and administering programs and strengthening oversight

and privacy protections and setting clearer guardrails around the use of automated processes and the like, are worthy.

And they sit within broader changes like the government's push to reform and strengthen the Australian Public Service, to rejig the ministerial code of conduct, replace the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, grant greater powers to the Commonwealth Ombudsman and reinstate the Administrative Review Council.

But one glaring area where

the government's efforts so far are falling short is regarding whistleblower protections.

It is no small irony that on the very same day the government said in its response to the robodebt report that it was strengthening the system to protect public sector whistleblowers, the trial of military lawyer David McBride on charges of unlawfully leaking information about alleged war crimes by Australian defence personnel, commenced.

The prosecution sits awkwardly with the tribute four

ministers, including Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, paid to the "courage, leadership, and ethics on display from victims, advocates and whistleblowers" during the robodebt royal commission.

Ultimately, the question of whether or not something like robodebt happens again will come down to how willing politicians in future will be to refrain from attacking such people for cheap political advantage. When political battle is joined, principle can be an early casualty.

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CANBERRA LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

Alice Garner loves going off on tangents

SOME people were never meant to do just one thing.

That's what Alice Garner tells herself every time she finds herself going off on one of life's many tangents.

An actor who appeared on Australian screens throughout the 1980s, 90s and early 2000s, she could very well have reached for the stars and shipped herself off to Hollywood, like so many other young Aussie actors.

But Garner chose a more ... obscure path. And that's Dr Garner to you - she completed her PhD in French history at around the same time she was appearing in *SeaChange* and *The Secret Life of Us*, and spent years weaving academia around acting.

She made her acting debut as a child in the 1982 film *Monkey Grip*, based on the novel by her own mother, Helen Garner.

At a certain point, she says, she grew weary of being at the whims of an industry notorious for uncertainty, disappointment and lots and lots of waiting. Acting, that is, not academia, although it has its own drawbacks.

"I reached a point, I think, in my 30s, where I was sick of the thing that comes with acting, of being constantly waiting for other people's decisions, and feeling quite powerless in many ways," she says.

"And I thought, you know what? I'm over this, and I wasn't really willing to go all out and sleep on couches in LA."

We're speaking over tea at the National Library of Australia, where Dr Garner the academic has fetched up on a fellowship.

She's researching the life of Mavis Robertson, best known for her pioneering role in compulsory superannuation and for co-founding the Mother's Day Classic fun run.

Having discovered the satisfaction of recording people's whole-of-life oral histories as part of a previous project, Garner is now exploring how to tell someone's life story as an audio documentary.

"People are actually starting to realise now the potential of superannuation, not only



Historian and actor Alice Garner at the National Library. Picture by Gary Ramage

at a personal level, but at a societal level," she says.

"It wasn't the super itself that particularly interested me, because I'm not really a financially-minded person. But I got curious when I learned that back in the 50s, she was actually a longtime member of the Communist Party and she had, as a young woman in her 20s, taken groups of Australians through China and through the Soviet Union,

Trans-Siberian Railway to these big world peace festivals and things like this.

"Also she was behind the scenes ... in the Vietnam moratorium planning, in Palm Sunday rallies, a whole bunch of peace activism moments and campaigns. And I thought, that's a life that lends itself to this sort of treatment where you get an individual story, but it takes you into important moments in Australian history."

You get an individual story, but it takes you into important moments in Australian history.

Alice Garner

Garner's own interests have never lent themselves to a life in solid academia. After completing her doctorate, she thought she might do a project on the history of hitch-hiking, and the shifting perspectives of the practice over time.

But when she went to apply for research funding, it was made clear to her that she needed to stick as closely as possible to her own track record. Her thesis had focused on perceptions of the beach and ocean in a French fishing village.

She'd already decided she was too attached to Melbourne and family to be able to focus more fully on French history. But that experience then led her, tangentially, to co-author a history of the Fulbright exchange between Australia and the US in 2018.

"I recorded a whole lot of whole-of-life interviews with Fulbright scholars - they're all in the [National Library] collection now."

It was also, in a sense, the seed of her current project on Mavis Robertson. She was always wistful that the life stories she'd recorded were only ever mined for snippets here and there. "You just couldn't do them justice in any form," she says.

She's also played the cello since she was 10, is part of a trio called Sunshine Tip, and used her time in lockdown in Melbourne to teach herself audio engineering. In this project, all her interests are finding a way to coalesce into something entirely different - the way she's always done it.

■ Alice Garner will be speaking about her research at the NLA, November 23 at 12.30pm. nla.gov.au

Tuggeranong Arts Centre celebrates 25 years of making art

Ron Cerabona

Dear August

Musician Darren Coggan and his daughter Olivia will be performing all of the tracks from their newly released EP *Dear August*, along with numbers from Coggan's albums and concept shows, at the Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 8pm. See: theq.net.au.

TAC25

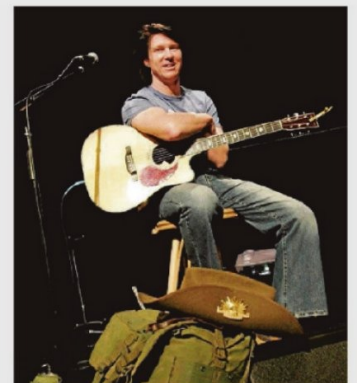
Come and share Tuggeranong Arts Centre's story, back through 25 years of artmaking in the TAC25 Variety Show and After Party on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 6pm. Your entry ticket will get

you a glass of bubbles on arrival, a ticket to the variety show and entry to the after party in the lodge, with live music by The Fuelers, birthday cake and gelato! Wood fired pizza and alcohol from the bar will be available for purchase. The show will feature the creative work of many artists who have been part of the TAC story including MC and comedian Chris Ryan, Venus Mantrap, Jess Gowing, Max Burgess, Bellyup Bellydance, Tahalianna Soward Mahanga, Tim and Nath Bevitt and the Sing with Toby choir. See: tuggeranongarts.com.

Messengers

Tuggeranong Arts Centre is hosting *Personal Mythology*, an exhibition providing

a glimpse into some of the past, current, and future myths of young artists aged between nine and 25 in the Messengers program. There are multi-media artforms investigating identity, creativity and how works are informed by both the conscious and subconscious. Messengers is a non-clinical social support program for vulnerable young people experiencing mental ill-health, social isolation and other issues. Messengers programs are specifically designed to improve psychological and social wellbeing via targeted participation in the arts. The exhibition is on from November 17, 2023 to January 27, 2024 with the official opening on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 5.30pm. See: tuggeranongarts.com.



Darren Coggan. Picture supplied

WORLD

NOWHERE TO RUN Fighting rages near main Gaza hospital, 20,000 people trapped

Israel ignores pleas for cease-fire

Khan Younis

HEALTH officials and people trapped inside Gaza's largest hospital have rejected Israel's claims that it is helping babies and others evacuate, saying fighting continues just outside the facility where incubators lie idle with no electricity and critical supplies are running out.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed urgent calls for a cease-fire unless it includes the release of the 240 hostages captured by Hamas in the October 7 rampage that triggered the war.

A day after Netanyahu said Israel was bringing its "full force" with the aim of ending Hamas' 16-year rule in Gaza, residents reported heavy airstrikes and shelling, including around the Al-Shifa Hospital. Israel, without providing evidence, has accused Hamas of concealing a command post inside and under the health compound, allegations denied by Hamas and hospital staff. "They are outside, not far from the gates," said Ahmed al-Boursh, a resident sheltering there.

The hospital's last generator ran out of fuel on Saturday, leading to the deaths of three premature babies and four other patients, according to the Health Ministry. It says another 36 babies are at risk of dying. Israel's military asserts it placed 300 litres of fuel near Al-Shifa overnight for an emergency generator powering incubators for premature babies and co-ordinated the delivery with hospital officials. But the military said Hamas prevented the hospital from receiving the fuel.

A Health Ministry spokesman, Ashraf al-Qidra, disputed the account and

International action is needed now to secure an immediate humanitarian cease-fire.

United Nations statement

also said the fuel would not be enough to operate the generator for an hour. "This is a mockery towards the patients and children," Al-Qidra said. Speaking to CNN, Netanyahu asserted that "100 or so" people had been evacuated from Al-Shifa and that Israel had created safe corridors. But Health Ministry undersecretary Munir al-Boursh said Israeli snipers had been deployed around Al-Shifa, firing at any movement.

The Israeli military said troops would assist in moving babies on Sunday. But Medical Aid for Pales-

tinians, a UK-based charity that has supported Al-Shifa's neonatal intensive care unit, said transferring critically ill infants was complex. "With ambulances unable to reach the hospital ... and no hospital with capacity to receive them, there is no indication of how this can be done safely," CEO Melanie Ward said. The only option was for Israel to stop its assault and allow fuel into the hospital.

The Health Ministry says there are 1500 patients at Al-Shifa, along with 1500 medical personnel and between 15,000 and 20,000 people seeking shelter. The

president of Doctors Without Borders International, Christos Christou, told reporters it would take weeks to evacuate the patients. World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on the X social media platform that Al-Shifa had been without water for three days and "is not functioning as a hospital anymore".

The Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said another Gaza City hospital, Al-Quds, was also "no longer operational" because it was out of fuel with 6000 people trapped there. Gaza's sole power plant shut down a month ago, and Israel has barred fuel imports to prevent Hamas from using them.

One woman fleeing northern Gaza, Fedaa Shangan, said she'd had a cesarean section at Al-Quds

and the "the wound is still fresh". She said the Israeli army near the hospital "did not care about the presence of patients, children, women and the elderly - they did not care about anyone".

International alarm is growing. "We do not want to see a firefight in a hospital where innocent people, people seeking medical care are caught in the crossfire," President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said on Monday. "Decisive international action is needed now to secure an immediate humanitarian cease-fire" amid attacks on health care, the United Nations said.

About 2.3 million Palestinians remain in the besieged territory. Netanyahu says the responsibility for any harm to civilians lies with Hamas, accusing the group of using civilians as human shields.

Lebanon border tensions deepen

Jerusalem

ATTACKS by Lebanon's Hezbollah group have wounded seven Israeli troops and 10 other people, Israel's military and rescue services say. The clashes came as skirmishes between the Iran-backed group and Israeli military continue to intensify along the Lebanon-Israel border, threatening to escalate into another front in the Middle East's latest war.

The assault was the most serious incident involving civilians along the Lebanon-Israel border since an Israeli airstrike in south Lebanon on November 5 killed a woman and three children. The Israeli army's chief spokesman, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, said the Hezbollah attack on Israeli civilians was "very serious".

He said Israel was focused on its war in Gaza but it also remained at a "very high level of preparedness in the north" and ready to take further action.

The Israeli military "has operational plans to change the security status in the north", he told reporters. "The security status will not remain such that the civilians of the north do not feel safe returning to their homes."

The Israeli military said it identified 15 launches from Lebanon within an hour and its defence systems intercepted four of them. The rest fell into open areas.

Hamas' military wing, meanwhile, on Monday claimed responsibility for shelling in the northern Israeli city of Haifa and also the border towns of Na'ura and Shlomi from southern Lebanon without releasing any further details.



A Palestinian man shows his desperation among the rubble of a residential building following an Israeli strike on Khan Younis, in southern Gaza. Picture EPA

More than 180,000 rally across France against anti-Semitism

Paris

MORE than 180,000 people across France, including 100,000 in Paris, have marched peacefully to protest against rising anti-Semitism in the wake of Israel's ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne, representatives of several parties on the left, conservatives and centrists of President Emmanuel Macron's party as well as far-right leader Marine Le Pen attended the march in the French capital amid

tight security. Macron did not attend, but expressed his support for the protest and called on citizens to rise up against "the unbearable resurgence of unbridled anti-Semitism".

However, the leader of the far-left France Unbowed party, Jean-Luc Melenchon, stayed away from the march, saying last week on X, formerly Twitter, that the march would be a meeting of "friends of unconditional support for the massacre" in Gaza.

The interior ministry

said at least 182,000 people marched in several French cities in response to the call launched by the leaders of the parliament's upper and lower houses.

Paris authorities deployed 3000 police troops along the route of the protest called by the leaders amid an alarming increase in anti-Jewish acts in France since the start of Israel's war against Hamas after its October 7 surprise attack on Israel.

In a letter addressed to the country on Sunday, Macron vowed that perpetrators

would be prosecuted and punished. France has the largest Jewish population in Europe, but given its own World War II collaboration with the Nazis, anti-Semitic acts today open old scars.

Holding a French flag, Robert Fiel said marching against anti-Semitism was more than a duty. "It's a march against violence, against anti-Semitism, against all (political extremes) that are infiltrating society, to show that the silent majority does exist," the 67-year-old said.



A demonstrator wearing an Israeli flag joins with thousands to march against anti-Semitism in Paris. Picture AP

Countries to thrash out global plastic treaty

Nairobi

AS THE world's nations enter another round of talks this week on creating a first-ever treaty to contain plastic pollution, officials are bracing for tough negotiations over whether to limit the amount of plastic being produced or just to focus on the management of waste.

Working with a document called a "zero draft" that lists possible policies and actions to consider, national delegates to the week-long meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, will be debating which of those options to include in what eventually will become a legally binding treaty by the end of 2024, officials involved in the negotiations say.

"We are at a pivotal moment in this process," said Andres Del Castillo, a senior attorney at the Centre for International Environmental Law, who is an observer to the negotiations.

The world is currently producing about 400 million metric tonnes of plastic waste every year, with less than 10 per cent of it being recycled, according to the UN Environment

Program, choking landfills and despoiling oceans. That amount is set to surge in the coming decade, as oil companies, which often also produce plastics, look to new sources of revenue amid the

energy transition away from fossil fuels. About 98 per cent of single-use plastic - like bottles or packaging - is derived from fossil fuels, according to the UN Environment Program.

The European Union and dozens of countries, including Japan, Canada and Kenya, have called for a strong treaty with "binding provisions" for reducing the production and use of virgin

plastic polymers derived from petrochemicals and for eliminating or restricting problematic plastics, such as PVC and others containing toxic ingredients.

That position is opposed

by the plastic industry and by oil and petrochemical exporters like Saudi Arabia, who want to see plastic use continue. They argue that the treaty should focus on recycling and reusing plastics, sometimes referred to in the talks as "circularity" in the plastics supply.

In a submission ahead of this week's negotiations, Saudi Arabia said the root cause of plastic pollution was "inefficient management of waste".

The United States, which initially wanted a treaty comprised of national plans to control plastics, has revised its stance in recent months. It now argues that, while the treaty should still be based on national plans, those plans should reflect globally agreed goals to reduce plastic pollution that are "meaningful and feasible".

On Sunday, a group of 20 international scientists sent an open letter to negotiators asking them to put health at the heart of the talks, and aim for a treaty that reduces production volumes of plastics and mandates proper testing of all chemicals in plastics.



The world is currently producing about 400 million metric tonnes of plastic waste every year. Picture EPA

India's Diwali festival lights up the night, raising pollution alert

Lucknow

MILLIONS of Indians celebrating Diwali have lit up a Guinness World Record number of bright earthen oil lamps as concerns about air pollution soar across the country.

Throughout India, dazzling multi-coloured lights decked homes and streets as devotees celebrated the annual Hindu festival of light symbolising the victory of light over darkness.

But the spectacular and much-awaited massive lighting of the oil lamps took



The Indian state of Uttar Pradesh has set a record by lighting more than 2.2 million oil lamps. Picture AP

place, as usual, at Saryu River, in Ayodhya, in Uttar Pradesh state, the birthplace

of their most revered deity, the god Ram.

At dusk on Saturday, dev-

otees lit over 2.22 million lamps and kept them burning for 45 minutes as Hindu religious hymns filled the air at the banks of the river, setting a new world record. Last year, over 1.5 million earthen lamps were lit.

After counting the lamps, Guinness Book of World Records representatives presented a record certificate to the state's top elected official Yogi Adityanath.

Diwali, a national holiday across India, is celebrated by socialising and exchanging gifts with family and friends.

Many light earthen oil lamps or candles, and fireworks are set off as part of the celebrations. In the evening, a special prayer is dedicated to the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, who is believed to bring luck and prosperity.

The festival came as worries about air quality in India are rising. A "hazardous" 400-500 level was recorded on the air quality index last week, more than 10 times the global safety threshold, which can cause acute and chronic bronchitis and asthma attacks.

But on Saturday, unexpected rain and a strong wind improved the levels to 220, according to the government-run Central Pollution Control Board. Air pollution levels were expected to soar again after the celebrations ended on Sunday night because of the fireworks used.

Last week, officials in New Delhi shut down primary schools and banned polluting vehicles and construction work in an attempt to reduce the worst haze and smog of the season, enveloping high-rise buildings.

Satellite launched to collect CO2 data

Montreal

CANADIAN emissions monitoring company GHG-Sat has launched a satellite aimed at detecting carbon dioxide emissions from individual facilities like coal plants and steel mills from space for the first time.

The satellite, named Vanguard, was launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, GHG-Sat said.

Space-age technology is increasingly being used to hold polluting industries accountable for their contri-

butions to climate change. GHG-Sat's data is available for sale to industrial emitters who want to reduce their emissions, as well as to governments and scientists.

Vanguard will build on the growing network of satellites that are already spotting plumes of methane, an invisible greenhouse gas that is difficult to detect because it tends to leak from an array of small sources including pipelines, drill sites and farms.

Carbon dioxide accounts for nearly 80 per cent of US

greenhouse gas emissions from human activities and tends to enter the atmosphere from large industrial sources like power plants. Satellites monitoring carbon dioxide in the atmosphere currently were not focused on facility-level emissions, GHG-Sat said.

The data collected by Vanguard would help substantiate common practices of monitoring and measuring carbon dioxide emissions, according to Stephane Germain, CEO of Montreal-based GHG-Sat.

"Often what we find is a mix of direct measurements and estimates - therefore having a direct measurement of the entire facility from a satellite will act as a validation," Germain said.

Satellites have already shown that methane emissions are broadly higher than estimated and Germain said he suspected the same is true of carbon dioxide.

The information would help bolster the accuracy of government emissions inventories and scientific modelling, he said.

Titanic menu creates stir at London auction

London

MORE than 111 years after the sinking of the Titanic, memorabilia from the luxury liner has been auctioned off including a menu for first-class diners. The menu caused a particular stir; it is said to be the only surviving menu from April 11, 1912. It features oysters as well as "tournados of beef a la Victoria" and mallard duck.

The water-damaged menu sold under the hammer at the Henry Aldridge & Son auction house in London for

66,000 pounds (\$127,000). A first-class blanket, which was presumably carried by a survivor in the lifeboat and had been estimated to be worth up to 100,000 pounds (\$192,000), went for 76,000 pounds (\$146,000).

The Titanic set sail on its maiden voyage to New York from Southampton, England, on April 10, 1912 with 2200 people on board. After just a few days, the luxury liner, considered unsinkable, struck an iceberg and sank, killing 1500 people.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

A 'frank and fearless' public service

IT WOULD have been good if the government had accepted all of the robodebt royal commission's views.

It balked at the final "observation" of the commission that "confidentiality should only be maintained over any Cabinet documents or parts of Cabinet documents where it is reasonably justified for an identifiable public interest reason".

One of the lessons of the robodebt scandal is that openness improves government so it is regrettable that the Albanese government didn't go the whole way.

All the same, its acceptance of the bulk of the recommendations is welcome.

The scheme to send false tax bills to vulnerable people was a scandal in anybody's book. As the Minister for Public Service Katy Gallagher put it: "There's no doubt that the illegal robodebt scheme was a shameful chapter in public administration in Australia."

Quite.

There are broad lessons to be learned.

One of them is that public servants need to be able to challenge ministerial instructions which seem to them to be clearly wrong, and to do so without fear of harm to their careers.

There was, for example, clear evidence within the Department of Human Services that the automatic system behind robodebt

The Canberra Times

TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY
AND THROUGH IT THE NATION

Ministers with strong views need to be confronted by strong counter-arguments.

gave unjust calculations.

It determined welfare-recipients' liabilities not by what their actual incomes were but on some sort of computer-generated average.

The department knew that this meant false bills being generated - but nothing was done.

As the royal commission concluded about the now-departed head of the Department

of Human Services: "When exposed to information that brought to light the illegality of income averaging, she did nothing of substance."

This particular issue brings into clear focus the central dilemma for the highest public servants.

Public servants are servants of the public - but they are also in a practical, day-to-day way the servants of the government elected by the public.

It is not the job of public servants to make government policy. It is the job of public servants to implement policy made by elected governments.

But what if that policy is illegal? Public servants cannot be expected to aid illegality. "I was just obeying orders" is not a defence.

The royal commission stated that senior

leaders were "excessively responsive to government, undermining the concept of impartiality and frank and fearless advice".

In recent years, there seems to have been an unwelcome tendency by politicians to want public servants who are like-minded. Ministers have not seemed to want "frank and fearless advice" about their policies.

This development hasn't just happened in Australia but in Britain and the United States as well. It may be because of the rise of non-consensual, ideological politics. Ministers with absolute certainty do not want public servants conveying doubt and complexity.

To some extent, it is sensible for a minister to want senior civil servants with whom he or she can work easily. Like minds make for a smoother day.

But like minds may also make for worse policy. Ministers with strong views need to be confronted by strong counter-arguments.

The royal commission does not have specific recommendations on how to get "frank and fearless" public servants who are, nonetheless, constructive and helpful to ministers.

But we need to step back from this recent unhelpful, ideological climate where ministers expect public servants to be, in effect, part of their political team, sharing their ideology.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bringing our national failure to mind, to mourn and regret

IN THE Irish tradition of the Month's Mind, the bereaved bring the deceased to mind and mourn again. Tuesday is the Month's Mind for the death of the Voice. In rejecting it, Australia, deceived by a coterie of right-wing politicians, did itself a deep wound.

Perhaps we'll not fully know it, let alone feel it, for years. Perhaps, like much done to Aboriginal people, we'll never know, let alone feel it, and only our children and grandchildren will have the perspective to feel the inherited wound. A decisive 60 per cent rejection (8 million votes) across every state spreads responsibility in a remarkable coalition devoid of empathy.

Many Australians whose forebears endured massacre and dispossession in their own countries, voted "no". Many Australians with religious leanings, some raised in the teaching of the Good Samaritan, voted "no". Many Australians descended from migrants whose first generations were subjected to the White Australia policy and discrimination, voted "no". Most country Australians, otherwise known for their generosity, voted "no". Some younger Australians voted the future into "no". Most older Australians, who won't be there, voted no.

Yes, five million from the same cohorts had the heart and the hope to vote "yes". But history will record that even a powerless, but permanent, elected committee to advise how to close the gap for the most disadvantaged, was not acceptable if it was Aboriginal. The very ballot papers would have cried out against such a "no" had they a voice. Poor fellow my country.

P O'Keeffe, Hughes

No reason for no Voice

Now that the Voice to Parliament has been done and dusted and lost, there is no reason that there cannot still be a Voice advisory

committee to Parliament. There are already a number of Indigenous federal politicians in Parliament.

As well as working for their electorate they could form an advisory committee along with some non-Indigenous members to form an advisory Voice to Parliament committee as was part of the referendum. As far as special recognition to the Indigenous community in the constitution, everyone in Australia is already recognised in that document and there should not be any community group singled out for special mentions, after all, we are all Australians.

Alan Leitch, Austins Ferry, Tas

Not all of Holt unhappy

Unlike W.A. Brown ("Dubious benefit for Holt", Letters, November 11), I welcome the news that traffic lights will be installed on Drake Brockman Drive, Holt. It is now difficult for motorists to safely join the Drake Brockman stream of traffic from Trickett and McNaughton Streets - due to the increase in traffic from Ginninderry. These two streets have not been "low traffic suburban streets" since the installation of calmers in Spoforth Street.

This situation will be much worse by the time the lights are in place and operating. The Strathnairn "punters" will be losers. They will be obliged to stop at the new lights to allow traffic from Holt and Higgins to safely join and leave the Drake Brockman stream.

And, currently, pity the poor pedestrian trying to reach the nature trail on the other (southern) side of Drake Brockman Drive. Sure there are traffic islands - narrow ones - but the pedestrians waiting on these islands are liable to be lifted off their feet in the draft created by the size and speed of Drake Brockman traffic.

R.J. Wenholz, Holt



An emotional Prime Minister Anthony Albanese conceding defeat on the night of the Voice referendum. Picture by Gary Ramage

Misguided 'land hoarding'

Land hoarding (often passed off as environmental correctness), and the land value rates revenue system, are largely responsible for today's lousy housing affordability and amenity.

The sustained supply of land for new, properly planned and serviced suburbs, satellite towns, etc, all government-driven and responsibly regulated, with more land sales direct to owner-occupiers; and the scrapping of the rates/land tax system in favour of say, a marginally higher GST, could ensure on-going housing affordability and liveability, across all areas - and a more responsible and progressive national economy.

Jack Kershaw, Kambah

Taking on the 'boys in blue'

Congratulations to Latrell and Jack and their legal teams for taking on the "boys in blue". Whilst Minister Gentleman has advised that an internal investigation has commenced, my sides are splitting from laughter - "police investigating police".

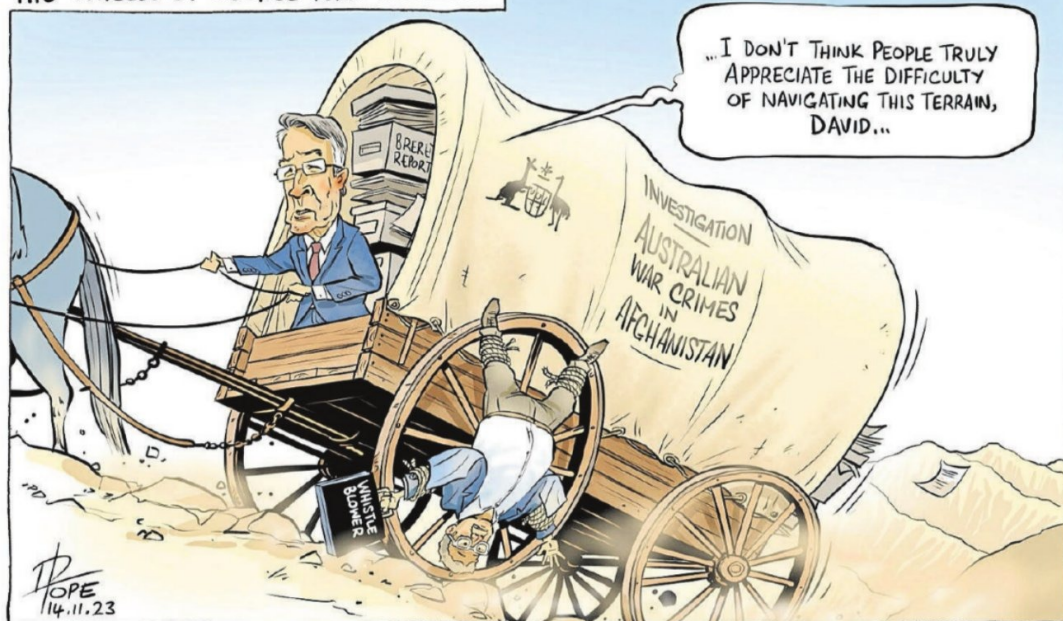
I have submitted a few complaints to the AFP Professional Standards regarding the conduct of AFP officers investigation into the death of my daughter in 2020.

The outcome was one of "nothing to see here"; the police allegedly complied with their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS). Please note, I use the word "allegedly".

Oddly enough there is no conclusive evidence that I can find which confirms a

POPE'S VIEW

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE TURN SLOWLY...



History will record that even a powerless, but permanent, elected committee to advise how to close the gap for the most disadvantaged, was not acceptable if it was Aboriginal.

P O'Keefe, Hughes

crime scene was set up by the AFP officers who were assigned to the investigation of my daughter's death, despite being advised this was the case by a senior police officer.

And as far as evidence going missing, it was the same with my daughter's matter; much evidence "lost". Simply, it beggars belief, and integral in people losing faith in the conduct of AFP officers.

Janine Haskins, Cook

Old-fashioned scepticism needed

Mr Dutton's recent and repeated statements about off-shore wind turbines endangering whales and dolphins have been shown to be based on disinformation.

It has been reported that a Facebook post, stating that a paper supporting the "evidence" for harm to whales had been published in respected publication *Marine Policy*. As soon as the fake was flagged by *Marine Policy* staff, the Facebook page disappeared.

Research from InfluenceMap shows that "anti-climate groups are using Facebook's advertising platform and unique targeting abilities to spread disinformation, intentionally seeding doubt and confusion around the science of climate change."

It seems this divisive practice is being imported into Australia.

Used by right-wing groups to further their opposition to action on climate change, they undermine any chance of bipartisan decision-making. A bit of the Aussie scepticism and BS detection has never been more urgently needed.

The mis-and-disinformation appears to have reached the halls of Parliament and

threatens to derail our transition to renewables.

Fiona Colin, Malvern East, Vic

Hypocrisy is breathtaking

There are those who support Israel's savage war against the Palestinians in Gaza arguing that Jews have a historic relationship to the land, Israeli national security demands the toughest military action, the people in border lands are being terrorised and civilian casualties in war are unfortunate, but are ultimately on the heads of the fanatical enemy.

Ironically, these are similar justifications used by Russia in relation to its war against Ukraine - just substitute Russia and Russians for Israel and Jews. Ultimately it's all about land, resources and security.

The US asserts the right to order the world under a "pax Americana", backed by its Western allies including Australia. The hypocrisy is breathtaking. We back the Ukrainians without understanding the Russians and back the Israelis without understanding the Palestinians, when in fact all parties have legitimate concerns.

It's time we grew up as a nation and stopped prostituting our body, soul and

intellect for an illusory "security" based ultimately on plans to kill our neighbours.

David Perkins, Reid

Symbiotic relationship

Although one hesitates to applaud cartoons about what is going on in Gaza at the moment, the one by Broelman on Sunday is a pithy summary of at least one aspect of the conflict. The extremists on both sides have a strangely symbiotic relationship with each other in their mutual desire for conflict and dominance.

The vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians also have a symbiotic relationship that requires they live together as opposed to seeking each other's destruction. Let's hope the majority on both sides prevail over their extreme minorities.

Bede North, Turner

Regions aren't ready

I have to take issue with the rave editorial (November 12) about Canberrans moving to the Snowy Valleys region. Despite best endeavours services such as healthcare will never be as good in the regions as they are in large cities. People moving to the regions put additional strain on infrastructure, so there is pressure to build more roads, etc, with strains on government budgets and the environment.

And with serious global heating coming does it make sense to live in more hazardous bush environments that requires responses from overstretched and struggling volunteer fire services and SES and greater taxpayer funded natural disaster recovery programs?

Roderick Holesgrove, Crace

HAVE YOUR SAY

Letters to the Editor should be kept to 250 or fewer words. To the Point letters should not exceed 50 words. Reference to *The Canberra Times* reports should include date and page number. Provide a phone number and address (only your suburb will be published). Email letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au with your letter in the message field.

Responsibility for election comment is taken by John-Paul Moloney of 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra. Published by Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Ltd.

DETENTION ALWAYS WRONG

Like many others, I am so pleased that refugees can no longer be kept in indefinite detention. But it shouldn't have taken a High Court ruling that it was illegal. It was always morally wrong.

Judy Aulich, Giralang

TERRIBLE POWER

Israel's highly geared, omnipotent propaganda machine claims Hamas fighters are using civilians as human shields, while they, with vengeful abandon, have already carpet bombed the Gaza strip, with an estimated tonnage equivalent destructive force of greater than two Hiroshima bombs ("Fighting ramps up in shattered city", November 10).

Albert M. White, Queanbeyan, NSW

HOWARD ON THE MONEY

John Howard's "constructive view on difficult issues", are more often than not correct. John Howard is never in "Cloud cuckoo land". James Gralton you have misread the man: an intelligent, articulate and significant force in politics.

Brien Armstrong, Dunlop

LEAVE RATES LEVER ALONE

The Reserve Bank can stop hiking mortgage interest rates in its quest to bring inflation down. Lower inflation will not happen until big business, supermarkets, energy providers, banks, insurers, all of them, cease with their unconscionable conduct, maintaining elevated prices for no good reason except greed, posting obscene record profits as people go without food or are homeless. If ACCC had any teeth and a will to use them, they would have stopped this a long time ago.

Anne Willenborg, Royalla, NSW

TROLLED BY ANTI-VAXXERS

Why when COVID-19 infections are increasing in the ACT are anti-vaxxers, mostly from interstate, allowed to troll Canberrans with misinformation each Saturday near the Little Burley Markets? Authorities seem unable or unwilling to act. Canberrans need to let them know that there misinformation and conspiracy theories are not welcome here. Go away.

Neil Kinsella, Fadden

READING INTO AN ERROR

Oh dear! It appears that I spelt the Reverend Robert Willson's (please note double "t") name incorrectly (Letters, November 9). For this I and my spellchecker (and presumably the letters sub-editor) profoundly apologise. But as to whether my erroneous spelling along with my other sins of omission make me untrustworthy, as is implied, I will leave your readers to decide. Unlike some proselytisers of celestial myths and legends, I would expect your readers to consider issues based on fact and evidence.

Steve Anderson, Forrest

FAILED EXPERIMENT

Let's face it, the Jewish invasion of Palestine is a failed experiment. The Zionists need to make peace with the region and the people.

Kenneth Griffiths, O'Connor

TELOPEA INSPIRATION

On looking at leafy parkland spaces of inner South Canberra, we, in Woden could learn from those older suburbs. By banning developers from the stretch of stormwater drain and adjacent land between Southlands to Hindmarsh Drive, we have opportunity to create a Telopea parkland-style stretch with tree plantings, seats, barbecues and grassy areas. After all, wasn't Telopea Park a strip of plantings along a stormwater drain?

Gail Allen, Pearce

OPINION

Hold on: this isn't the solution we needed

ZOË
WUNDENBERG



IT WAS interesting to read that Services Australia are hiring 3000 more staff to attempt to resolve the long wait times on hold for clients, extended claim processing times and the administrative errors that have plagued clients trying to make ends week.

My first response was, "this is brilliant!" I thought having to set aside an entire day to call Centrelink because you don't know how long you'll be waiting for, if you'll be disconnected, if you find yourself handballed around for ages between department, or even if you will be able to get through at all, is just absolutely bonkers. We all know that Centrelink desperately needs to address these issues. But when I really thought about it, I started to worry. Is this the entire strategy? Are Services Australia throwing money at the problem (\$228 million to be precise) and hoping it will go away?

Bill Shorten's office has said that Services Australia has fewer public servants per capita than at any other time, attributing the issue to the former Liberal government "gutting 3800 staff". While that's strictly true, unsurprisingly, it's not the whole story.

The pandemic has complicated matters, as the service need grew so significantly, required an inflation of staff for claim processing, customer service, ICT (maintenance and infrastructure), etc.

This led to a number of projects being instigated and staff numbers growing by just under 3000, and with 2000 non-APS staff transitioning to APS employment between September 2020 and September 2021.

Labor's 'contractor cull' included 1000 lost jobs (mostly in ICT) just before Christmas, as many structural systemic core system projects came to an end, and furthermore, in May of this year, it was announced that Services Australia would lose 1800 staff to "get back to normal" following the pandemic-era boost. I think there's a bigger issue at



Government Services Minister Bill Shorten. Picture by Karleen Minney

play than merely party politics. Last week, at the Senate estimates meeting, the staff satisfaction survey for Services Australia was discussed. It was revealed that up to 180 workers are leaving Services Australia every month, with almost 20 per cent of the remaining staff reporting that they plan to leave in the next year.

Furthermore, the deputy CEO of Services Australia, Jarrod Howard, admitted almost 20 per cent of the service delivery group did not recommend the agency as a good place to work. Howard explained the staff exodus as personnel retiring or chasing promotions in other agencies, and vastly oversold the current state of affairs in comparison to 2022, with a focus on cherry picking the highlights to discuss. Alarming, neither Howard, nor the other officials present at the hearing could provide any information

on the spot regarding staff retention or morale strategies. Their response was limited to "sort of seeing" if there's any support they can give a team particularly under the pump, seemingly without any sense of organisation, policy underpinning or clear, repeatable and consistent plans for addressing these issues when they arise.

Now, add in an influx of 3000 new staff into this work environment. What could possibly go wrong?

Minister Bill Shorten stated that 800 Australians have already accepted jobs as part of that 3000 planned hiring frenzy; 800 new staff already being onboarded and poured into a workplace with deeper seated issues that seem to be swept under the carpet by the executive leadership team of the agency. Services Australia need to focus on fixing their workplace culture to resolve the

revolving door of staff, or the percentage of lost employees is just going to rise with the influx of new personnel.

A review of staff feedback on Seek for Services Australia from across the country indicate a raft of solvable problems that could be addressed: micromanaging staff, undervaluing personnel, poor communication, and "[a]n atmosphere of toxic positivism" were all key issues reported.

Perhaps throwing 3000 more people at the issue isn't the right approach. Or at least not yet. Stop sweeping the issues under the carpet and cherry-picking the media talking-points - peoples lives literally depend on you getting this right.

■ Zoë Wundenberg is a careers consultant and un/employment advocate at impressability.com.au, and a regular columnist for ACM.

Water will not flow forever if we continue business as usual

GLORIA
JONES



TEN years ago I travelled from our home in Clayton Bay, South Australia to Canberra with my late husband Henry Jones, where we cooked Coorong mullet for MPs to drive home the importance of reducing the amount of water being taken from the Murray.

Today, me and my daughter have come back to Canberra to replicate the action because the Murray-Darling is now in critical danger, and with new legislation before the Senate the next few weeks are crucial.

We know what my late husband Henry would say if he was still alive - the federal government needs to step up now and guarantee the future of Murray-Darling.

We are here to remind our politicians that those of us who have lived and worked on Australia's biggest river system for generations - including fishers, irrigators, First Nations and local communities - have a right to water from a sustainable Murray-Darling.

We know that a healthy sustainable river needs to come first and then healthy sustainable river communities will follow. We

come to Canberra again because we know it's not too late to keep the Murray mouth open and the river levels high enough to run to the sea.

The droughts experienced over the past decade have had a devastating impact on our communities and tested our resilience, but we can't blame the droughts alone for the state of the Murray-Darling.

Unless we strengthen our efforts to reduce water taken from the river by getting behind government efforts to buy back water, then we will have gained nothing by the next time we experience a serious rainy season.

Both the droughts and climate change have no doubt made our task more difficult and urgent, but the core of the problem remains simple - river mismanagement in the form of too much water allocated to irrigators has devastated the long term health of the rivers.

We have seen an impasse in Murray-Darling water policy in which no single stakeholder will admit they are part of the problem - from high up the river in St George right down the Murray mouth.

The finger is always pointed upstream or downstream, but it is the overall river flows that are the loser.

We can't go on like this. Now it is time to

make decisions for the good of the entire river system.

A healthy river environment means healthy industries can still thrive, but when the river is neglected as it has been, more fish species will be lost along with the pain that will continue to be felt in river communities.

As it stands, many species of fish, birds and plants have already been driven to extinction from the rivers and lakes around the Coorong where I live, and many will never recover. To keep on this trajectory is to do a gross disservice to future generations, including my grandkids.

One only has to look at what happened in the Menindee Lakes and the Darling-Baaka River with mass fish kills. We need greater protection and more water to be restored to these areas.

The same thing is now happening in the Coorong. After the recent large floods, black bream are now in their masses, but without regular flows - water for the environment - there is a grave risk these fish will die too. They cannot wait another three years.

We would be foolish to believe that our rivers will once again be pristine, but our communities have strong connections to rivers and wetlands so healthy cultural

waters need to be protected. This also comes down to respecting traditional owners and acknowledging their wisdom shown in caring for these waterways.

We come to Canberra together with First Nations leaders and environmental groups calling for a true commitment to restoring a healthy Murray-Darling River system for all.

Climate change means we need to act quickly and become smarter with water use.

The Water Act must be fully adhered to and the plan being proposed for both the northern and southern basins to keep healthy flowing rivers needs to be delivered in full. The water currently on the table will not be enough to bring health back to our waterways, so any reduction of that would be disastrous.

Minister Tanya Plibersek, on behalf of Henry Jones and river communities stretching from the south to the north of the majestic Murray-Darling, we ask you to be brave.

Please, buy back the necessary water from willing sellers, sooner, rather than later.

■ Gloria Jones is a founding member of the River, Lakes and Coorong Action Group. Her family have lived and fished in the Coorong region of South Australia for 60 years.

What else is in the RBA toolbox?

When it comes to interest rates, we should be thinking outside the square.

CRISPIN HULL



THE other day a family member showed me his "man's shed" in his new house. It has a wall with silhouettes where the tools should be: chisels, fret saws, blade screwdrivers, a tomahawk and the like. I think there was a VCR and vinyl records as well.

It reminded me of the Reserve Bank - last century's tools, no longer fit for purpose for this century. Except the Reserve Bank has only one tool - interest rates.

We know it is not working. We must ask why. The answer is in two words: baby boomers.

The baby boomers - born in the years immediately after World War II - have, for 70 years - worked their way through the demographic graph like a goat swallowed whole by a greedy python.

Along the way they have cajoled and electorally frightened governments into policies that benefit them - from free university; cheap land; and subsidised mortgages in the 1970s; to superannuation concessions in the 1990s; investment concessions thereafter; and all the while generous senior's cards giving car rego, utilities and rates concessions to the well-heeled.

The boomers, now in their 70s, are still engaged and articulate enough to make politicians' lives a misery if those politicians attempt to take away any of these richly undeserved benefits.

The boomers have now left what superannuation funds call the accumulation stage. They are now selling their investment properties and drawing down on their savings.

For them higher interest rates increase their income, through bonds and interest-bearing deposits owned directly or through their funds. Or the increased rates are tax-deductible on investment houses and can be passed on through higher rent.

In this environment, about a third of the economy is unaffected by or benefits from higher rates - and therefore spend more and add to inflation. They spend more because they are used to privilege and having it good.

The other two-thirds are already squeezed to having virtually no discretionary spending left - one sausage with the mash instead two, perhaps.

The former group balances out the latter. Worse, on the fiscal or budgetary side the government is headed for deficits which also add to inflation.

In short, the interest-rate tool is not up to the task given to central banks in most democratic market-based economies - to keep inflation and unemployment down while ironing out the boom-bust cycles which have haunted market economies since the industrial revolution.

Central banks got that task and the independence that went with it because politicians could not trust themselves not to misuse the interest-rate tool to help themselves get elected rather than to manage the economy.

We naively believed that if we handed over one of the key levers of economic policy to a central bank we would sail smoothly.



RBA Governor Michelle Bullock needs to do some radical thinking around interest rates. Picture by Sitthixay Dittthavong

Now to add to this baby-boomer glitch comes some research that suggests that not only are central banks incapable of smoothing out the boom-and-bust curve, but they actually make it worse.

Four European economists argue that central banks themselves cause "boom-bust dynamics" and financial crises by holding rates too low for too long, then lifting rates too far and too fast.

Their paper, *Monetary Policy, Inflation and Crises: Evidence from History*, trawls through 150 years of data from 17 developed countries. They conclude that central banks add to the boom-bust cycle and, worse, expose economies to financial crises - the very thing they were supposed to avoid.

They say, "Central banks have been raising interest rates to fight inflation just after a period when rates were first cut and then kept low. But these rate hikes substantially increase crisis risk, if rates were previously cut. Rate cuts lead to booms in credit and asset prices, and subsequent rate increases expose these financial vulnerabilities, potentially triggering a crisis."

Sound familiar? Remember the "recession we had to have"? Remember former Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe telling us that interest rates would not rise until at least

2024 and the subsequent astronomic rise in housing prices?

Objectively, the subsequent 13 interest-rate rises in 2023 appear to be specifically aimed at driving Australia into a recession. But I don't think the Reserve is malicious - just oblivious to other forces at work.

Perhaps the only thing "saving" the Australian economy now is high immigration - but at vast cost to the Australian environment, lifestyle, and amenity of the

(government budgets) must be used more responsibly and less politically. The inflationary and unfair Stage 3 tax cuts should go.

The great start on the clampdown on corporate tax-dodging should be ramped up further. And the investment concessions mainly used by Boomers should be tweaked away - not like Chris ("They Can Vote for Someone Else") Bowen before the 2019 election.

And on interest rates we should think outside the square. If the aim is to dampen demand to avoid recession or boost it to avoid a bust, why not use a very direct tool that stares us in the face. We should have a variable GST rate. It would be as effective as a variable speed limit. Every month the Reserve would set the GST rate, rather than the interest rate.

Or the Reserve could have two interest rates: what you pay and what you get. Facing high inflation, the first goes up but the second does not. Facing a bust the first goes down and the second either goes up or stays flat.

In any event, surely, we can do better than continuing to use last century's tool kit.

■ Crispin Hull is a former editor of The Canberra Times and regular columnist. crispinhull.com.au

The other two-thirds are already squeezed to having virtually no discretionary spending left - one sausage with the mash instead two.

existing population. Trashing the continent is a poor trade for some good economic figures.

So where to from here? First fiscal policy

ANZ joins the \$7b earnings club

ANOTHER Big Four bank has reported a rise in full-year earnings to more than \$7 billion but analysts are calling ANZ's profit disappointing and environmental groups warn its climate commitments are wanting.

Australia's most internationally focused retail bank on Monday posted a cash profit of \$7.4 billion for fiscal 2023, up 14 per cent from the \$6.5 billion it made in 2021/22, but slightly under consensus analyst expectations. ANZ's statutory net profit was flat at \$7.1 billion.

"This is a strong annual result, with record revenue and cash profit following

several years of transformation," chief executive Shayne Elliott said in a statement on Monday.

But E&P Capital analyst Azib Khan called the result a negative, with 2023/24 consensus downgrades likely.

There were concerns that ANZ's relatively aggressive growth in Australian home lending was pressuring its net interest margin, Mr Khan said, which was under expectations at 1.65 per cent.

But Mr Elliott said ANZ had strengthened its balance sheet and now had provisions for potential credit losses higher than prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(We're entering) a period of continued high interest rates, rising costs and geopolitical tensions.

ANZ chief executive Shayne Elliott

"This is critical as we enter a period of continued high interest rates, rising costs and geopolitical tensions."

Just 2000 of ANZ's one million mortgage customers were in hardship, a sign that most households were "muddling through pretty well", Mr Elliott said.

"In the scheme of things, it's relatively modest. And so

that speaks to the strength of the economy, the fact that people have been able to work through."

The percentage of ANZ's Australian customers that are 90 days or more behind on their home loan or credit card payments had been ticking up this year but remained well below the levels seen before COVID-19.

Environmental groups were critical of ANZ's policy update on its climate commitments, saying they lagged those of the other three major banks in several respects, such as still allowing financing to coal, oil and gas companies via bonds.

Last week, National Australia Bank reported a net profit of \$7.4 billion for fiscal 2023, while Westpac grew its net profit by 26 per cent to \$7.2 billion.

ANZ announced a final dividend per share of 94 cents, 56 per cent franked, taking the bank's total payout for the year to \$1.75 per share, up from \$1.46 last year.

Alarming gaps in cyber security measures: ASIC report

THE confidential information of Australians could be at risk after a survey from the corporate regulator revealed many organisations had limited or no capability to adequately protect data.

The report from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission comes as the Albanese government weighs up new laws to deal with cyber security breaches.

Almost one in two survey respondents were not managing third-party or supply chain risk, even though these relationships could provide bad actors with easy access to an organisation's systems and networks. A third of organisations did not have a response plan for cyber incidents, and one in five had not adopted a cyber security standard.

ASIC chair Joe Longo called the survey findings alarming. "There is a need to go beyond security alone and build up resilience - meaning the ability to respond to and recover from an incident," he said on Monday. "It's

not enough to have plans in place. They must be tested regularly - alongside ongoing reassessment of cyber security risks."

Many of the organisations that participated in the

survey indicated a desire to improve, with 95 per cent opting to receive a report on how their cyber resilience compared to others.

The findings come as freight company DP World is

dealing with a massive cyber attack that has closed four Australian port operations.

Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil is expected to introduce new laws to classify telecommunications pro-

viders as "critical infrastructure", forcing them to update their cyber security approach and meet minimum standards that apply to important Australian organisations like energy companies.



The cyber attack on DP World has highlighted deficiencies in Australia's corporate data protection. Picture AAP

Aussie shares edge lower in wait for data

THE local sharemarket has finished lower on the first day of a busy week for economic data. The benchmark S&P/ASX200 index on Monday finished down 27.7 points, or 0.4 per cent, to 6948.8, while the broader All Ordinaries dropped 31.6 points, or 0.44 per cent, to 7145.0.

Traders will this week be watching closely for the release of US inflation data for October overnight on Tuesday, which CMC Market analyst Tina Teng noted could be critical for

risk sentiment. "It could be a cheerful time for market bulls as consensus calls for a meaningful decline in US inflation," Ms Teng wrote.

Expectations are that inflation will fall to 3.3 per cent year-on-year, from 3.7 per cent in September. Domestically, the NAB business survey, third-quarter wage growth and October employment figures will be released this week.

TPG Telecom was the biggest loser on the ASX200 on Monday, falling 11.7 per cent to a five-month low of \$4.81

after ending discussions with Vocus Group on a \$6.3 billion sale of its non-mobile fibre assets.

"The proposed transaction involved considerable complexity and, ultimately, the parties have been unable to reach alignment on the operating model and commercial terms for TPG to have sufficient confidence that a successful transaction can be agreed and executed," TPG said.

The financial sector fell 0.5 per cent, with the Big Four banks mixed as ANZ

posted a cash profit of \$7.4 billion for fiscal 2023, up 14 per cent from 2021/22 but a touch under consensus expectations. ANZ shares closed down 3 per cent to \$24.70, while NAB rose 1.6 per cent to \$28.90, Westpac dipped 0.3 per cent to \$20.80 and CBA was basically flat at \$101.31.

In the heavyweight mining sector, BHP added 0.3 per cent to \$45.40, while Rio Tinto and Fortescue both lost about a quarter of a percentage point, to \$120.13 and \$23.69, respectively.

MARKET WATCH

THE DOLLAR

	BUYING	SELLING
USD	0.657	0.617
GBP	0.544	0.498
EUR	0.615	0.575
JPY	99.65	93.34
NZD	1.107	1.049

COMMODITIES

	CURRENT	MOVE
Gold \$US/o	1936.79	-21.40
Oil	81.65	+1.71

TOP 10 BY VALUE

	TRADED	CLOSE
ANZ Banking	376,009,830	24.70
BHP Group	205,714,450	45.40
Nat Aust Bank	201,773,215	28.90
CBA	148,131,779	101.31
CSL	143,396,521	252.00
Origin Energy	142,226,827	8.78
Westpac Bank	140,751,204	20.80
Macquarie Grp	117,878,901	158.53
PilbaraMin	78,188,862	3.48
Fortescue Met	67,854,948	23.69

KEY STOCKS

	LAST	MOVE
AMP	995	-0.1
ANZ	24.70	-0.77
BHP Group	45.40	+0.13
CBA	101.31	-0.01
NAB	28.90	+0.44
News Corp	34.12	-0.63
Rio Tinto	120.13	-0.29
Telstra	3.95	+0.01
Westpac	20.80	-0.06
Woolworths	35.56	+0.06

WORLD MARKETS

	LAST	MOVE
S&P/ASX200	6948.8	-27.70
All Ords	7145	-31.60
Dow Jones	34,283.1	+391.16
NASDAQ	13,521.45	-128.96
S&P500	4347.35	-35.43
NIKKEI225	32,585.11	+17.00
NZSE 50	11,093.03	-47.37

Consumers in spend pause

HOUSEHOLD spending has simmered down in the absence of one-off events like the FIFA Women's World Cup, Barbenheimer and football finals. Payment data from the Commonwealth Bank reveals a sharp slowdown in spending in October after a spate of major events kept overall consumption elevated over the three months prior. The 1 per cent fall throughout October followed three months of improvements,

with the annual pace of growth also falling back. Recreation as charted by the CommBank Household Spending Insights index - which captures roughly 30 per cent of consumer transactions - sunk 4.7 per cent over the month, with hospitality also recording a sharp 4.5 per cent decline. CBA chief economist Stephen Halmarick said higher interest rates were clearly weighing on households, as well as ballooning prices for essentials.

Clockwise from right: The Dune House in SA; Mount French Lodge in Queensland; Avalon Coastal Retreat in Tasmania; The Pole House in Victoria; Sault Phillip Island in Victoria. Pictures: Hannah Spence Photography; Greg Hunt.



Sault Phillip Island, Victoria

Little penguins and little children may be the first things that spring to mind when you think of this island, just two hours south of the Melbourne CBD. But dig deeper and you'll realise it's a stunning spot for grown-ups, too, offering pristine beaches, scenic hikes and this chic three-bedroom hideaway. Accommodating six guests 13 years or older, Sault is decked out with all the creature comforts you can think of - from plush linen in the rooms to designer robes in the bathrooms. *From \$430 per night (minimum two nights); saulthillipisland.com*

The Pole House, Victoria

You'll have to get your act together if you want to check into this holiday home. At press time, only a few nights were available here this side of Christmas. One look at its pictures and you'll know why. Not only does the Pole House - located near Lorne on the Great Ocean Road - offer sweeping views of the ocean, it's a staggering feat of architecture, too. Suspended 40 metres above Fairhaven Beach, it has only one room with space for just two adults. So save it for a special occasion. *From \$950 per night; greatoceanroadholidays.com.au*

Take me there

Feel at home at one of Australia's most exquisite holiday houses. By Akash Arora

Somnium at Bingie, NSW

Take in the dramatic views of Mount Dromedary and Coila Lake from this sprawling property located on NSW's South Coast. Check into the Main House, which can accommodate up to nine guests in its four bedrooms, or for a larger group, take over the next-door Barn, too, where another six guests can sleep comfortably. *From \$2475 per night for the Main House (minimum three nights); somniumatbingie.com.au*

The Headland at Dovecote, NSW

Set on 60 hectares of farmland near Gerringong, the Headland at Dovecote features a stunning design with its master suite and lounge cantilevered above ground, with wide-angle ocean views. There's a swimming pool on site, along with four bedrooms, a state-of-the-art kitchen and a rumpus room, meaning you wouldn't want to leave once you check in. *From \$2750 per night; dovecote.com.au/headland*

Avalon Coastal Retreat, Tasmania

This three-bedroom hideaway is located so discreetly on the main thoroughfare of Rocky Hills that most tourist buses from Hobart on their way to Wineglass Bay would never know it's even there. But once you're inside the Avalon Coastal Retreat, the world will open in ways you can't even imagine. Natural light will pour in from every nook and cranny - from floor-to-ceiling windows, sliding glass doors and skylights - along with mesmerising water views. *From \$1050 per night; avalonretreats.com.au/coastal*

The Dune House, SA

Both the *New York Times* and - more recently - *Lonely Planet* have ranked Kangaroo Island as one of the best places to visit in the world. Want to find out what the fuss is all about? Simply check into the three-bedroom Dune House, from where

you can take in all the glorious aspects of this island - from dense eucalypt forests to pristine beaches. *From \$1200 per night; hamiltondune.com.au/Dune-House*

Mount French Lodge, Queensland

Its owners call it the Scenic Rim's best-kept secret and we tend to agree. Not only is the eight-bedroom Mount French Lodge located on a sprawling private property with no neighbours, it's also often shrouded in clouds first thing in the morning, giving it that mysterious otherworldly feel. The clouds do peel away eventually, with panoramic views of the lush landscape taking centre stage. *From \$3200 per night; mountfrenchlodge.com.au*

Serene Shores, WA

It's a longish flight to Perth, followed by a few hours on the road, but once you get to this four-bedroom haven in WA's world-famous Margaret River region, we bet you won't be complaining. Spend the day admiring Indian Ocean views from your private pool, hit the beach for crystal-clear waters and creamy sands or sign up for a tour of the region's best wineries. *From \$1999 per night (minimum three nights); privateproperties.com.au*

ULTIMATE TAHITI CRUISE HOLIDAYS

Packages include Paul Gauguin cruise, return airfares with Air Tahiti Nui, Tahiti accommodation and Tahiti transfers. PLUS luxury car transfers home to airport* BONUS US\$150pp on-board credit
*Conditions apply.



PEARLS OF THE SOCIETY ISLANDS

Enjoy intimate and classic luxury as you cruise the waters of French Polynesia on board m/s Paul Gauguin including spectacular Bora Bora.

Departs: Selected dates through 2024
10 nights - from \$8,999pp* twin share ex SYD/MEL/BNE
SAVE UP TO \$7,000 PER BALCONY CABIN*

Bora Bora
Tahiti
Motu Mahana
Huahine
Raiatea
Moorea
PAPEETE
Tahiti
Pacific Ocean

Paul Gauguin CRUISES

THE ISLANDS OF TAHITI

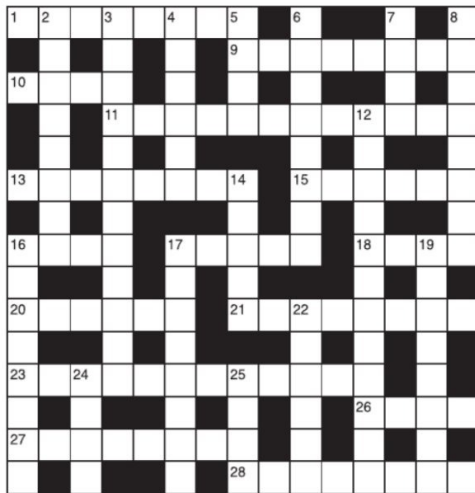
ultimatecruising.com.au or call 1300 485 846

PUZZLES

ENGLISH CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 30,584

ACROSS
1 Paper that comes out after the match? (8)
9 Being able to take everything in? (8)
10 List of options in June, maybe travelling west (4)
11 Regret returning after training a true star as chef, perhaps (12)
13 Male pride and the speed of sound upset some briefly (8)
15 Good knock dad! That's the spirit (6)
16 Charges time lost by carnivals (4)
17 Praise the French, occupying Brussels after evacuation (5)
18 Only painful if changing sides (4)
20 Poor delivery from posh type – a couple of lines (2-4)
21 Poets needing English, for example in schedules (8)
23 Republican always criticises and produces repercussions (12)
26 Unprotected firm with a question for nation (4)
27 Height of talent with student in place of power (8)
28 Daughter had dinner after school and set off (8)

DOWN
2 Exposed lovers steal pass (8)
3 Newspapers, on behalf of the nation, will take on university (6,6)
4 Seethes, essentially stifling proposals (6)



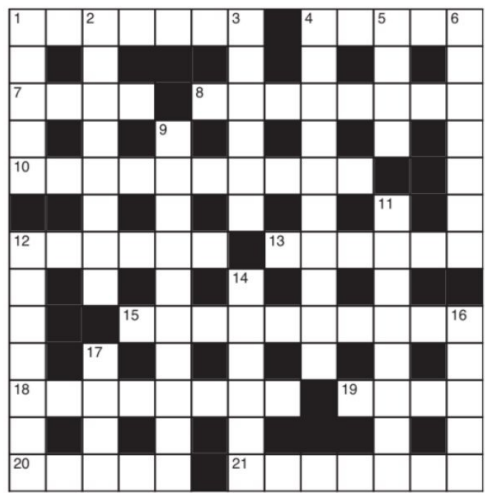
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5 Area to the south of Channel Island state (4)
6 Neon, perhaps, damaged granite top of structure (5,3)
7 Most of jurors perhaps sleep (4)
8 Reduction of French credit facility (8)
12 Broadcast from coaches with no international assignment (12)
14 Neat look at wild flower (2-3)
16 Slow and enjoyable breakfast dish (not cold) (8)
17 British European party argue excessively (8)
19 One puts one's suit in a case (8)
22 Film about Times worker still living (6)
24 Rule out Doctor Who at last (4)
25 Ruminants may go north for grass (4)

GEMINI CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 10,441

ACROSS
1 A number beaten in the final (7)
4 One way to cook assorted meats (5)
7 The barrel end of a gun (4)
8 Spot a feline holding another with love (8)
10 Fitting a new model tiara perhaps (6-4)
12 Address for delivery? (6)
13 Doctor strives to obtain films (6)
15 Amazed by a dishonest arrangement (10)
18 Fat animal seen in port (8)
19 Wise men having a different image out East (4)
20 Way the French follow an animal home (5)
21 Tract of grassland left out (7)

DOWN
1 Explorer sailor in bed (5)
2 One whom people don't admit is not a favourite (8)
3 Anything but happy with my new logo (6)
4 Those who do presumably won't take defeat lying down (5,2,3)
5 It's bad to be overthrown (4)
6 Threats can seem ridiculous (7)
9 Criterion for a jester (10)
11 Bouncer drunk at dance (8)



©Auspac Media

12 Makes slow progress on a street car (7)
14 Stock type of pen (6)
16 Don't struggle to get the meaning (5)
17 Combat wear (4)

5X5 Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

R		S		S
	T		I	
D		O		A
	N		E	
D		E		S

TINY CROSS 1115

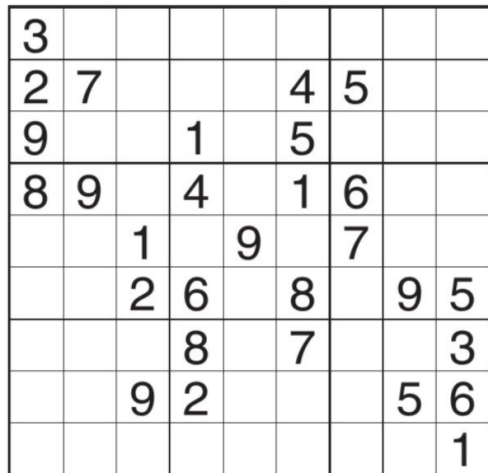


ACROSS
1 Bells ringing (4)
4 Exist (2)
5 Subterranean mammal (4)
7 Hatchet (3)

DOWN
1 Mountain lion (4)
2 Fit (4)
3 Sheltered side (3)
6 Bull (2)

SUDOKU 122

You are given a 9x9 grid which has been divided up into nine 3x3 boxes. The aim of the game is very simple: to fill each row, column and 3x3 box with the numbers from 1 to 9 inclusive. Level of difficulty: Medium



9-LETTER 032



Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural/verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET:
GOOD: 16 VERY GOOD: 20 EXCELLENT: 30+

Reference: Macquarie Dictionary.

WORDFIND Theme: Ships

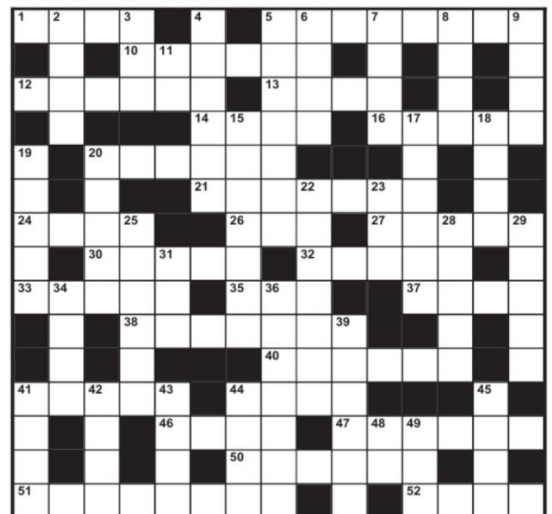
The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



ALABAMA BELFAST CATO
ALBION BOUNTY DE DELFT
ARGO CALYPSO DISCOVERY
BATAVIA CARPATHIA EASTMINSTER

ELISSA
EUROPA
FLETCHER
FLYING CLOUD
FRAM
GOKSTAD
GOLDEN HINDE
HARVEY
HOPE
HUNLEY
LA BELLE
LA PINTA
NIMROD
OLYMPIC
SAN FELIPE
SIRIUS
TITANIC
VASA
VICTORY
YAMATO

QUICK CROSSWORD 290



ACROSS
1 Boat
5 Underworld guardian
10 Open
12 Panda food
13 Edible seed
14 Cloak
16 Electronic post
20 Frozen wasteland
21 Gestures
24 Wading bird
26 'Gosh!'
27 Jostle
30 Jewish leader
32 Keen
33 Unwarranted
35 Bob head
37 Twosome
38 Septic tank
40 Enhance
41 Hooded snake
44 Spur
46 US space org. (abbr)
47 Prizes
50 Said
51 Blue gemstone
52 Moist
5 Leafy vegetable
6 Fencing sword
7 Calcified material
8 NZ tree
9 Dirt
11 Negative
15 Beginnings
17 Deceived
18 Liking (coll)
19 Japanese poem
20 After second
22 Requiring
23 Lower limb
25 Shallow dish
28 Broom
29 Essential liquid
31 Hive insect
34 Roman emperor
36 Use (machinery)
39 Agreement
41 Bovines
42 Toot
43 Egyptian symbol
44 Soviet Russia (1,1,1,1)
45 Cheese type
48 Ourselves
49 Count up

CROSSMATHS 122

Insert each number from 1 to 9 in the shaded squares to solve all the horizontal and vertical equations.

Multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

	x		x		=	28
+		+		x		
	÷		+		=	13
x		-		+		
	+		+		=	14
=		=		=		
52	6			14		

WOLLONGONG

24°C

Partly cloudy.

WED 18/23°C THU 17/21°C FRI 14/20°C SAT 14/23°C SUN 17/23°C MON 18/24°C

BATEMANS BAY

23°C

Late shower or two.

WED 11/22°C THU 11/21°C FRI 8/22°C SAT 9/24°C SUN 12/23°C MON 13/27°C

CANBERRA

25°C

Cloudy.

WED 11/26°C THU 9/24°C FRI 7/24°C SAT 7/27°C SUN 10/25°C MON 12/29°C

REGIONAL OUTLOOK

WARNINGS were current at 5pm yesterday.
www.bom.gov.au/australia/warnings
1300 659 210 (cost of a local call)

CANBERRA

Cloudy. The chance of fog in the early morning. Slight chance of a shower. Light winds becoming north to northwesterly 15 to 20 km/h in the early afternoon then becoming light in the evening.

ILLAWARRA

Partly cloudy. The chance of fog about higher ground in the early morning. Slight chance of a shower in the south. Light winds becoming northeast to southeasterly 15 to 20 km/h in the middle of the day then becoming light in the evening.

SOUTH COAST

Cloudy. The chance of fog about the coastal ranges in the early morning. Medium chance of showers, most likely in the late afternoon and evening. Light winds becoming east to southeasterly 15 to 20 km/h in the middle of the day then becoming light in the evening.

ILLAWARRA COASTAL WATERS

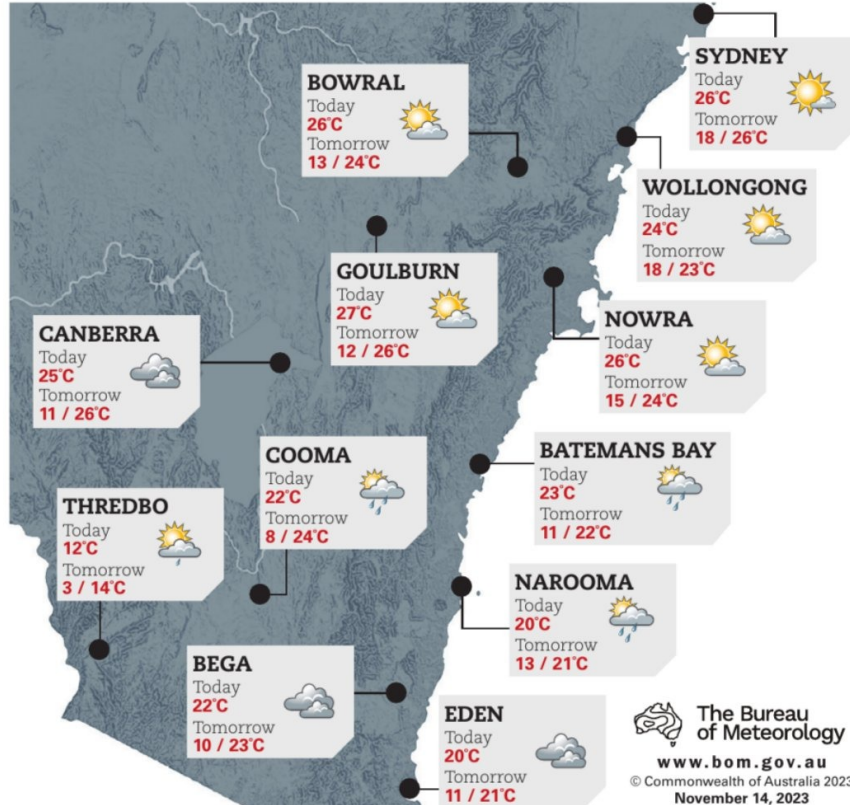
Port Hacking to Ulladulla

Winds: Northerly 10 to 15 knots turning north-easterly in the middle of the day. Seas: Below 1 metre. Swell: Southerly 1 to 1.5 metres inshore, increasing to 1 to 2 metres offshore north of Point Perpendicular. Weather: Partly cloudy.

BATEMANS COASTAL WATERS

Ulladulla to Montague Island

Winds: Northerly 10 to 15 knots shifting south to southeasterly in the late morning then tending east to southeasterly in the late evening. Seas: Around 1 metre. Swell: Southerly 1 to 1.5 metres. Weather: Cloudy. 60% chance of showers.



YESTERDAY

Location	**Max	Min	Rain*
Bega	23	9	0.0
Canberra	27	10	0.0
Cooma	22	4	0.0
Goulburn	26	8	0.0
Kiama	21	17	0.0
Merimbula	21	9	0.0
Moruya	20	15	0.0
Nowra	23	16	0.0
Thredbo	16	1	0.0
Tuggeranong	26	9	0.0
Ulladulla	20	17	0.0
Wollongong	21	17	0.0

THE TIDES

SYDNEY

High 9:26am 1.8m 9:57pm 1.4m
Low 2:56am 0.5m 4:01pm 0.3m

TOMORROW

High 10:06am 1.8m 10:43pm 1.3m
Low 3:32am 0.5m 4:46pm 0.3m

PORT KEMBLA

High 9:25am 1.7m 9:58pm 1.3m
Low 2:54am 0.4m 4:03pm 0.3m

TOMORROW

High 10:03am 1.8m 10:45pm 1.2m
Low 3:30am 0.5m 4:49pm 0.3m

EDEN

High 9:24am 1.8m 10:07pm 1.3m
Low 2:52am 0.6m 4:08pm 0.4m

TOMORROW

High 10:02am 1.8m 10:57pm 1.3m
Low 3:30am 0.6m 4:54pm 0.3m

SUNSMART

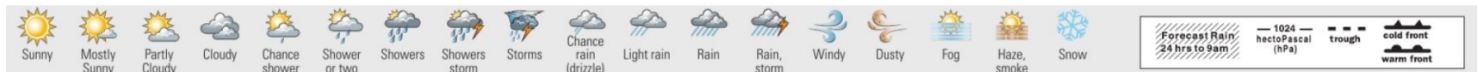
CANBERRA
Sun protection recommended
8:50am to 4:40pm

WOLLONGONG
Sun protection recommended
8:40am - 4:30pm

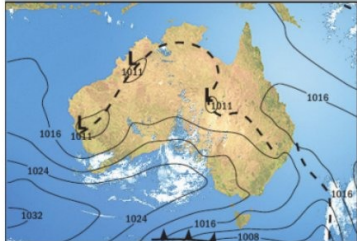


The Bureau
of Meteorology

www.bom.gov.au
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November 14, 2023



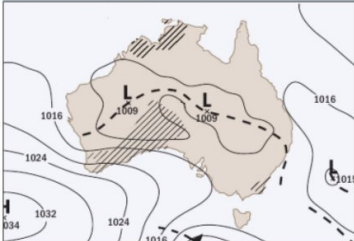
NOON YESTERDAY



10AM TODAY



10AM TOMORROW



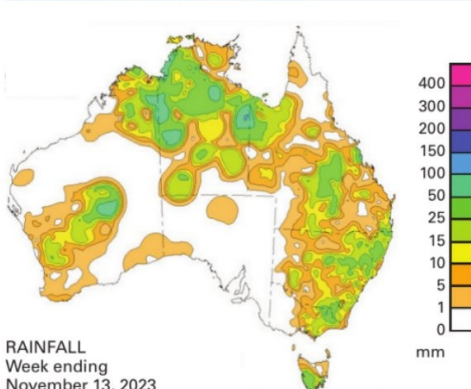
10AM THURSDAY



THE WORLD

Location	Weather	High	Low
Amsterdam	cloudy	9	2
Athens	fine	22	10
Auckland	showers	20	11
Bangkok	fine	33	24
Barcelona	sunny	25	16
Beijing	fine	11	-2
Christchurch	fine	24	13
Frankfurt	rain	14	9
Helsinki	rain	5	1
Hong Kong	cool	24	19
Johannesburg	fine	22	14
Kuala Lumpur	storms	33	25
London	cloudy	14	11
Los Angeles	sunny	24	12
Moscow	rain	8	3
Noumea	sunny	26	20
Paris	showers	14	11
Port Vila	showers	28	22
Rio De Janeiro	cloudy	40	25
Rome	cloudy	21	16
Seoul	cloudy	10	0
Singapore	storms	34	24
Suva	fine	27	24
Tel Aviv	rain	23	21
Tokyo	cloudy	17	9
Vancouver	sunny	8	3
Washington	sunny	15	4
Wellington	windy	17	13

RAINFALL - LAST 7 DAYS



RAINFALL
Week ending
November 13, 2023

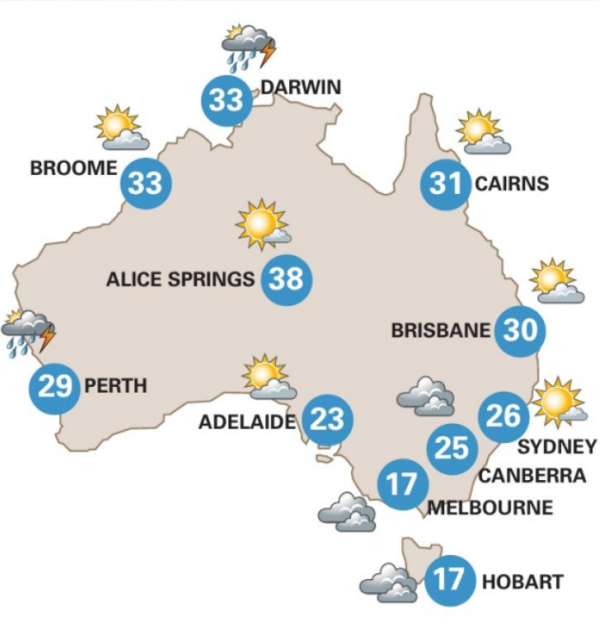
SUN & MOON

	SYDNEY	MELBOURNE	CANBERRA	HOBART
Rise	5:45am	6:01am	5:50am	5:39am
Set	7:35pm	8:08pm	7:46pm	8:11pm
Rise	5:54am	6:09am	5:59am	5:45am
Set	8:37pm	9:15pm	8:50pm	9:23pm

PHASES OF THE MOON

First	Full	Last	New
Nov 20	Nov 27	Dec 5	Dec 13

AUSTRALIA TODAY



TAKE 5

ABOUT TOWN



Lynda, Charlotte and Daniel Bailey, of McKellar.



Carol O'Brien, of Cook, and Joanne Farrell, of Bungendore.



Cormac Farrell, of Evatt, Julie Armstrong, of Duffy, Vicki Coleman, of Casey, and Matthew Armstrong, of Duffy.

Australians worth celebrating

The Australian of the Year awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of people who go above and beyond for their communities and challenge us to make our own contribution. Four inspiring Canberrans were announced as the ACT's Australian of the Year Award nominees for 2024 on Monday, October 30.



Caitlin Figueiredo, of Canberra, Sophie Edwards, of Curtin, and Melissa Dummett, of Gundaroo.



Eloise and Peter Bright, of Evatt.



Anitha Gupte, of Whitlam, Sandi Mitra, of Chisholm and Hafan Sowaid, of Sydney.

TRIVIA QUIZ

Compiled by Jean McLoughlin

- 1 What does BRB stand for if you are messaging someone?
- 2 What sort of wine did Hannibal Lecter recommend as the drink of choice with human flesh?
- 3 Which Australian mammal was included on a British list of 50 Things to Eat Before You Die?
- 4 What was the name of Celine Dion's hit song from *Titanic*?
- 5 Which daughter of Sir Paul McCartney is a well known fashion designer?
- 6 In which year did Apple make its first computer?
- 7 How old was Drew Barrymore when she appeared in the movie *E.T.*?
- 8 What is immediately below Oscar's feet on an Academy Award statuette?
- 9 What is always between the user's name and the domain name on an internet address?
- 10 What nationality is comedic actor Mike Myers?

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

3	1	5	7	8	6	2	4	9
2	7	6	9	3	4	5	1	8
9	4	8	1	2	5	3	6	7
8	9	7	4	5	1	6	3	2
5	6	1	3	9	2	7	8	4
4	3	2	6	7	8	1	9	5
1	5	4	8	6	7	9	2	3
7	8	9	2	1	3	4	5	6
6	2	3	5	4	9	8	7	1

CROSSMATH

4	x	7	x	1	=	28
+		+		x		
8	÷	2	+	9	=	13
x		-		+		
6	+	3	+	5	=	14
=		=		=		
52		6		14		

TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Be right back. 2. Chianti.
3. Kangaroo. 4. My Heart.
5. Stella. 6. 1976.
7. Seven. 8. A reel of film.
9. Canadian.

ENGLISH CRYPTIC

C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I	I	D	D
V	O	H	O	M	N	I	V	O	R	E
M	E	N	U	E	W	E	Z	C		
R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	T	E	
M	A	C	H	I	S	M	O	G	R	A
K	E	X	A	N	S					
F	E	E	S	B	L	E	S	S	C	O
U	T	E	E	Y	M	O	I			
N	O	B	A	L	L	E	G	I	S	T
E	T	A	X	S	I					
R	E	V	E	R	B	E	R	A	T	E
E	E	O	E	A	I	R	A	Q		
A	L	T	I	T	U	D	E	N	O	N
L	O	R	D	E	T	O	N	A	T	E

QUICK CROSSWORD

S	H	I	P	S	C	E	R	B	E	R	U	S
E	U	N	W	R	A	P	O	A	O			
B	A	M	B	O	O	B	E	A	N	T	I	
D			R	O	B	E		E	M	A	I	
H	T	U	N	D	R	A		I	N			
A	H	S	I	G	N	A	L	S				
I	B	I	S		G	E	E		E	L	B	O
K	R	A	B	B	I		E	A	G	E	R	A
U	N	D	E		N	O	D		D	U	E	T
R	E	C	E	S	S	P	I	T		S	E	
R	E		E	N	R	I	C	H				
C	O	B	R	A		U	R	G	E			
O	E	N	A	S	A		A	W	A	R	D	S
W	E	K		S	T	A	T	E	D			
S	A	P	P	H	I	R	E	Y		D	A	M

GEMINI CRYPTIC

C	L	O	S	I	N	G		S	T	E	A	M
A	U	L	T					V	E			
B	U	T						L	O	C	A	T
O	S	T						O	N	L	A	
T	A	I	L	O	R	M	A	D	E			
D	U	Y	T	H	E							
S	P	E	E	C	H							
T	R	E	C	H								
R	A	S	T	O	N	I	S	H	E	D		
O	F	T	R	N	B	E	R					
L	A	R	B	O	A	R	D					
L	A	N	A									
S	T	Y	L	E	A	F	L	E	T			

5X5

R	A	S	P	S
E	T	H	I	C
D	O	O	N	A
I	N	N	E	R
D	E	E	D	S

TINY CROSS

P	E	A	L
U	B	E	
M	O	L	E
A	X	E	

WORDFIND

N	O	E	L	I	N	G	C	L	O	U	D	S
O	R	I	M	P	O	H	T	S				
B	A	S	I	S								
L	U	C	K									
A	T	N										
R	E	C	O	G	N	I	S					
I	N	H	E	R								
N	E	E	P									
A	U	P	O									
T	R	O	E									
I	O	H	A									
C	P	S	G									
C	A	P	A									
H	A	R	V	E								

Secret message:
Oh to sail across the seven seas

HOROSCOPES

with ALISON MORONEY

www.alisonmoroney.com.au
astrologer@alisonmoroney.com

SCORPIO

(OCT 23–NOV 21)

While you may currently feel a little weary you will rapidly overcome these feelings. Your life force is being revitalised and will be reflected in all you do this month.

AQUARIUS

(JAN 20–FEB 18)

Career opportunities await the motivated Aquarian this month. For many of you, there are new beginnings around a parent or family situation. The current new moon heralds this.

TAURUS

(APR 20–MAY 20)

November's new moon holds great potential for Taurus' love life and business partnerships that are set to bloom. New contacts are likely while old ones grow in value.

LEO

(JUL 23–AUG 22)

There are many ways that you can improve your home life if you choose to do so. Family life will certainly be enriched by the trends during the coming month.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 22–DEC 21)

The current new moon highlights personal concerns for you, so this coming month is a good time to get your life in order. Nip potential problems in the bud.

PISCES

(FEB 19–MAR 20)

If you are a student taking exams this month, then you have huge potential for success. Make sure you capitalise on the trends by doing all the right things.

GEMINI

(MAY 21–JUN 20)

If you're out there looking for a job, then this month holds good prospects for securing one. Those in established positions will discover expanding work potential.

VIRGO

(AUG 23–SEP 22)

You will have a wealth of ideas in your possession this month, so be sure not to waste them. Planning is particularly productive following November's new moon.

CAPRICORN

(DEC 22–JAN 19)

There will be plenty of things to do with the social set this month, as we move towards the year's finale. New friendships and ambitions are in the process of formation.

ARIES

(MAR 21–APR 19)

You are entering an annual phase of growth where finances are concerned, primarily those connected with sources other than your main one. Friday is important.

CANCER

(JUN 21–JUL 22)

The current new moon is indicative of fertility and enjoyment, especially for Cancerians. New relationships or family members are likely to come on the scene.

LIBRA

(SEP 23–OCT 22)

The prospects for income generation are good during the month following the November new moon, so do all you can to increase the size of that pay packet.

Photographer: Elesia Kurtz



TUESDAY, November 14

ABC TV (CH 2, 20)	SBS (CH 3, 30)	SEVEN (CH 6)	NINE (CH 8, 80)	TEN (CH 5)
6.00 News Breakfast. 9.00 ABC News Mornings. 10.00 Ask The Doctor. (PG, R) 10.30 Dream Gardens. (R) 11.00 Enslaved. (PG, R) 12.00 ABC News At Noon. 12.30 National Press Club Address. 1.30 Poh's Kitchen. (R) 2.00 Parliament Question Time. 3.10 Gardening Australia. (R) 4.10 All Creatures Great And Small. (R) 4.55 Back Roads. (PG, R) 5.25 Hard Quiz. Presented by Tom Gleeson. (PG, R)	6.00 WorldWatch. 7.30 France 24 English News. 8.00 DD India Prime Time News. 9.00 Home Is Where The Art Is. (PG) 9.55 Victorian House Of Arts And Crafts. (PGI) 11.05 Great Canal Journeys. 12.00 BBC News At Ten. 12.30 ABC World News Tonight With David Muir. 1.00 PBS NewsHour. 2.00 Legends Of The Pharaohs. (Ms) 3.15 Mastermind Australia. (R) 3.45 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw. (PG, R) 4.15 Secret Scotland. (R) 5.05 Jeopardy! (R) 5.30 Letters And Numbers. (R)	6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. The latest news and views. (PG) 11.30 Seven Morning News. 12.00 MOVIE A Job To Die For. Revell Carpenter. A woman lands her dream job. (2022, Mav) 2.00 Autopsy USA: Florence Ballard. A look at the death of Florence Ballard. (Mav, R) 3.00 The Chase. Hosted by Bradley Walsh. 4.00 Seven News At 4. 5.00 The Chase Australia. Hosted by Larry Emdur.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. (PG) 11.30 Morning News. 12.00 My Mum Your Dad. (PGIs, R) 1.30 Great Australian Detour. Andrew Daddo explores Western Australia. (R) 2.00 Pointless. Presented by Alexander Armstrong. (PG, R) 3.00 Tipping Point. Hosted by Ben Shephard. (PG) 4.00 Afternoon News. 4.30 Millionaire Hot Seat. Hosted by Eddie McGuire. 5.30 WIN News.	6.00 The Talk. (PGA) 7.00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield. 7.30 Entertainment Tonight. 8.00 Farm To Fork. 8.30 Judge Judy. (PG) 9.00 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PGA) 9.30 Neighbours. (PGA) 10.00 Studio 10. (PG) 12.00 10 News First: Midday. 1.00 Dr Phil. (Mas, R) 2.00 To Be Advised. 3.10 Entertainment Tonight. 3.30 Farm To Fork. 4.00 Neighbours. (PGA) 4.30 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PGA) 5.00 10 News First.
6.00 The Drum. Analysis of the day's news. 7.00 ABC News. 7.30 7.30. Presented by Sarah Ferguson. 8.00 Take 5 With Zan Rowe: Lin-Manuel Miranda. Final. Zan Rowe chats with Lin-Manuel Miranda. (MI) 8.30 Rose Gold. A look at Patty Mills and the Boomers. (MI) 9.55 Tom Gleeson's Secrets Of The Australian Museum. A look at the Australian Museum. (PG, R) 11.00 ABC Late News. Coverage of the day's events. 11.15 The Business. (R) 11.30 Evacuation: We Should Have Gone Earlier. (Malv, R) 12.20 Media Watch. (PG, R) 12.35 Parliament Question Time. 1.35 Laura's Choice. (Madi, R) 2.35 Rage. (MA15+adhlinsv) 4.00 Barrie Cassidy's One Plus One. (R) 4.30 The Drum. (R) 5.30 7.30. (R)	6.00 Mastermind Australia. (R) 6.30 SBS World News. 7.30 Great British Railway Journeys: Long Itchington To Moseley. Presented by Michael Portillo. 8.30 The Lost City Of Melbourne. Takes a look at the past architectural landscape of Melbourne, much of which was lost during the '50s. (Md) 10.05 SBS World News Late. 10.35 Miniseries: The Dark Heart. Part 3 of 5. (Mal) 11.25 Paris Police 1900. A woman's body is found in the Seine. (MA15+asv, R) 3.50 Going Places With Ernie Dingo. (PG, R) 4.50 Destination Flavour: Singapore Bitesize. (R) 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.	6.00 Seven News. 7.00 Home And Away. John's absence is felt at the Surf Club. (PG) 7.30 7NEWS Spotlight: Remembering Johnny Ruffo. Celebrates the life of late actor and singer Johnny Ruffo. 8.30 Big Brother. Intruders Bella and Teejay are ready to explore their options for love inside the house. (Mal) 9.45 The Endgame. When a hostage's life is threatened, Elena calls on a popular news anchor to negotiate her release. (Malv) 10.45 The Latest: Seven News. 11.15 A Friend Of The Family. (MA15+a) 12.25 Tschugger. Bax is betrayed by someone close to him. (MA15+) 1.10 Grand Crew. New Series. (PGals) 2.00 Home Shopping. (R) 5.00 Seven Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.	6.00 Nine News. 7.00 A Current Affair. 7.30 My Mum Your Dad. Final. Hosted by Kate Langbroek. (PGIs) 9.00 Paramedics. A flight paramedic helps an injured driver whose car has crashed down a ravine. (Ma, R) 10.00 Embarrassing Bodies. Dr Tosin Ajayi-Sotubo helps a man. (MA15+mns, R) 11.00 Nine News Late. A look at the latest news and events. 11.30 New Amsterdam. Helen is overwhelmed. (Mamv, R) 12.20 Tipping Point. Hosted by Ben Shephard. (PG, R) 1.10 Pointless. (PG, R) 2.00 Hello SA. (PG) 2.30 Outdoors Indoors. 3.00 TV Shop: Home Shopping. (R) 3.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory. (PGA) 4.30 A Current Affair. (R) 5.00 News Early Edition. 5.30 Today.	6.30 The Project. A look at the day's news and events. 7.30 Dessert Masters. The contestants are challenged to "smash" it by creating a dish that smashes or cracks. (PGI) 8.40 The Cheap Seats. Presenters Melanie Bracewell and Tim McDonald take a look at the week that was. (Mal) 9.40 NCIS. An old pal of Torres' comes to him, disheveled and bloodied, for guidance before disappearing. (Mav, R) 10.40 NCIS: Los Angeles. After an architect duo are kidnapped, the NCIS team mounts a search to bring them home. (Mv, R) 11.30 The Project. A look at the day's news and events. (R) 12.30 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. Stephen Colbert interviews a variety of guests, including Barbra Streisand. (PG) 1.30 Home Shopping. (R) 4.30 CBS Mornings. Morning news and talk show.
ABC TV PLUS (CH 22) 6.00 Children's Programs. 1.55 Hoopla. 2.20 Grace's Amazing Machines. 2.55 Mecha Builders. 3.15 PJ Masks. 3.30 Play School. 4.00 Andy's Wild Adventures. 4.35 Go Jetters. 5.05 Piffirates. 5.30 Kiya And The Kimoja Heroes. 5.55 Peter Rabbit. 6.30 Andy And The Band. 7.05 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. 7.30 Spicks And Specks. (PG) 8.00 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 8.30 Adam Hills: The Last Leg. (PG) 9.10 Ghosts. (PG) 9.40 Rosehaven. (PG) 10.10 Portlandia. (M) 10.55 Blunt Talk. (M) 11.25 Fleabag. (MA15+) 11.50 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 12.20 MOVIE The Inbetweeners. (2011, MA15+alns) 2.00 Staged. (M) 2.25 Mock The Week. (M) 3.00 Close. 5.00 Children's Programs.	SBS VICELAND (CH 31) 6.00 WorldWatch. 10.00 Shortland St. (PG) 12.00 In My Own World. (PG) 12.55 VICE. (M) 1.30 Gaycation. (PG) 2.25 States Of Undress. (PG) 3.20 WorldWatch. 5.20 Shortland St. (PG) 5.50 The Curse Of Oak Island. (PG) 6.40 Jeopardy! 7.30 NITV News Update. 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown. (M) 8.30 James Webb: \$10 Billion Space Telescope. (PG) 9.30 Meet The Neighbours. (M) 10.30 Shores. (MA15+) 11.25 Monogamish. (M) 12.30 Black Market. (MA15+) 2.20 VICE Guide To Film. (M) 2.50 NHK World English News. 5.00 AI Jazeera.	7TWO (CH 62) 6.00 Shopping. 6.30 I Escaped To The Country. (PG) 7.30 Surf Patrol. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Harry's Practice. 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes And Gardens. 1.00 I Escaped To The Country. (PG) 2.00 Creek To Coast. 2.30 Air Crash Investigations. (PG) 3.30 The Zoo. 4.00 Surf Patrol. 4.30 Better Homes And Gardens. 5.30 I Escaped To The Country. (PG) 6.30 Bargain Hunt. 7.30 The Coroner. (M) 8.30 Inspector George Gently. (M) 10.30 Law & Order: UK. (M) 11.30 The Coroner. (M) 12.30 Surf Patrol. 1.00 Inspector George Gently. (M) 3.00 Better Homes. 4.00 Million Dollar Minute. 5.00 Lifestyle Magazine. (PG) 5.30 James Robison. (PG)	9GO! (CH 82) 6.00 Children's Programs. 12.00 Medium. (M) 1.00 Bewitched. 1.30 Raymond. (PG) 2.30 Full House. 3.00 MacGyver. (PG) 4.00 Family Ties. (PG) 4.30 The Addams Family. 5.00 Bewitched. 5.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. 6.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (PG) 7.00 Young Sheldon. (PG) 7.30 Seinfeld. (PG) 8.30 Love Island Australia. (M) 9.40 MOVIE Get Hard. Will Ferrell. (2015, MA15+Ins, CC) 11.40 Seinfeld. (PG) 12.40 Young Sheldon. (PG) 1.05 Life After Lockup. (M) 2.00 I Dream Of Jeannie. 2.30 Full House. 3.00 Bakugan: Geogan Rising. (PG) 3.30 Ninjabo. (PG) 4.00 Ricky Zoom. 4.30 Transformers: Cyberverse. (PG) 5.00 Pokémon. (PG) 5.30 Late Programs.	10 PEACH (CH 52) 6.00 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. (PG) 7.00 Becker. (PG) 8.00 Basketball. NBL. Round 7. South East Melbourne Phoenix vs Melbourne United. Replay. From John Cain Arena, Melbourne. 10.00 The King Of Queens. (PG) 11.00 Frasier. (PG) 12.00 Becker. (PG) 1.00 Seinfeld. (PG) 3.00 The King Of Queens. (PG) 4.00 Becker. (PG) 5.00 Frasier. (PG) 6.00 Friends. (PG) 6.30 Neighbours. (PG) 7.00 Friends. (PG) 8.00 The Big Bang Theory. (PG) 9.20 Two And A Half Men. (M) 10.10 Seinfeld. (PG) 11.10 Frasier. (PG) 12.00 Shopping. 1.30 Stephen Colbert. (PG) 2.30 King Of Queens. (PG) 3.30 Workaholics. (MA15+) 4.30 Shopping.
ABC ME (CH 23) 6.00 Children's Programs. 10.45 Deep Dive Into Australia's Wild Odyssey. 11.05 Children's Programs. 12.00 Odd Squad. 12.20 How To Do Stuff Good. 12.40 Malory Towers. 1.05 Merlin. (PG) 1.50 Horrible Histories. 2.25 Dorg Van Dango. 3.25 The Penguins Of Madagascar. 4.00 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. 4.20 Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs. 4.45 The Investigators. 5.00 Kung Fu Panda. (PG) 5.20 Miraculous. 5.55 Turn Up The Volume. 6.30 Operation Ouch! 6.45 Merlin. (PG) 7.35 The Fairly OddParents. 8.20 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (PG) 8.55 School Of Rock. 9.20 A Kind Of Spark. 9.45 Rage. (PG) 11.15 Close.	SBS WORLD MOVIES (CH 32) 6.00 The Life And Death Of Colonel Blimp. Continued. (1943, PG) 8.00 Corpo Celeste. (2011, Italian, PGA) 9.55 Magnetic Fields. (2021, Greek, PGal) 11.30 India Sweets And Spices. (2021, Ms) 1.20 The Orphanage. Quodratollah Qadiri. (2019, Dari, Malnsv) 3.00 The Man Who Knew Infinity. Dev Patel. (2015, PGA) 5.00 Belle And Sebastian 3. Félix Bossuet. (2017, French, PGA) 6.40 The Crossing. Anna Sofie Skarholt. (2020, Norwegian, PGalv) 8.30 Waiting For Anya. Noah Schnapp, Thomas Kretschmann. (2020, Mv) 10.30 Zoo. Toby Jones. (2017, Mav) 12.20 A Star Is Born. (1976, Madi) 2.55 Queen Marie. (2019, MA15+) 5.00 Corpo Celeste. (2011, Italian, PGA)	7MATE (CH 64) 6.00 Shopping. 7.00 Step Outside. (PG) 7.30 Creek To Coast. 8.00 A Football Life. (PG) 9.00 America's Game. 10.00 American Pickers. (PG) 11.00 Pawn Stars. (PG) 12.00 Swamp People: Serpent Invasion. (PG) 1.00 Swamp People. (M) 2.00 Truck Night In America. (PG) 3.00 Billy The Exterminator. (PG) 3.30 Aussie Lobster Men. (PG) 4.30 Storage Wars. (PG) 5.30 American Restoration. (PG) 5.30 American Pickers. (PG) 6.30 Pawn Stars. (PG) 7.30 Backout Truckers. (PG) 9.30 Heavy Tow Truckers Down Under. (PG) 10.30 Ice Road Truckers. (PG) 11.30 Jade Fever. (M) 12.30 Late Programs.	9GEM (CH 81) 6.00 Danger Man. (PG) 7.00 Creflo. (PG) 7.30 Skippy. 8.00 TV Shop. 9.30 Newstyle Direct. 10.00 TV Shop. 10.30 Pointless. (PG) 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Days Of Our Lives. (M) 12.55 The Young And The Restless. (PG) 1.50 Dr Quinn. (PG) 2.50 Antiques Roadshow. 3.20 MOVIE Eureka Stockade. (1949) 5.30 Yorkshire Auction House. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 New Tricks. (M) 8.40 The Closer. (M) 9.40 Rizzoli & Isles. (M) 10.40 Major Crimes. (M) 11.40 Madam Secretary. (M) 12.40 The Disappearance Of Natalee Holloway. (M) 1.50 Rizzoli & Isles. (M) 2.50 The Closer. (M) 3.50 Antiques Roadshow. 4.20 Late Programs.	10 BOLD (CH 53) 6.00 Home Shopping. 8.00 Healthy Homes Australia. 8.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG) 9.30 Jake And The Fatman. (PG) 10.30 JAG. (PG) 12.30 NCIS. (M) 1.30 NCIS: Los Angeles. (M) 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. (PG) 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG) 5.30 JAG. (PG) 7.30 Bull. Bull and the TAC team help Taylor. (M) 8.30 NCIS. The team exposes a fraudulent charity. (M) 9.25 FBI: International. An American citizen is accused of murder. (M) 10.20 SEAL Team. (M) 11.15 48 Hours. (M) 12.15 Home Shopping. 2.15 Diagnosis Murder. (PG) 4.05 JAG. (PG)
ABC NEWS (CH 24) 6.00 News Breakfast. 9.00 ABC News Mornings. 12.00 ABC News At Noon. 12.30 National Press Club Address. 1.30 ABC News Day. 2.00 Parliament Question Time. 3.10 ABC News Afternoons. 4.00 Afternoon Briefing. 5.00 ABC News With Joe O'Brien. 6.00 ABC Evening News. 7.00 ABC National News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 ABC News Tonight. 8.45 The Business. 9.00 ABC Nightly News. 9.30 Compass. 10.00 The World. 11.00 News. 11.30 The Drum. 12.30 News Overnight. 12.45 Q+A. 1.45 The Business. 2.00 DW News. 2.30 News. 2.45 If You're Listening. 3.00 DW News. 3.30 The World. 4.30 7.30 . 5.00 DW News. 5.15 The Business. 5.30 Landline.	SBS FOOD (CH 33) 6.00 Morning Programs. 9.40 Freshly Picked. (PG) 10.05 Food Safari. 10.30 Lidia's Kitchen. (PG) 11.00 The Cook Up. (PG) 11.30 Luke Nguyen's India. 12.00 Planet BBQ. (PG) 12.30 Project Fire. (PG) 1.00 All Up In My Grill. 1.30 The Chocolate Queen. 2.00 Barefoot Contessa. 2.30 Australia's Food Bowl. (PG) 3.00 The Italian Vegan Chef. 3.30 Choccywoccy. (PG) 4.00 Dolce India. (PG) 4.30 India Unplated. 5.30 Freshly Picked. (PG) 6.00 Food Safari. 6.30 Lidia's Kitchen. (PG) 7.00 The Cook Up. (PG) 7.30 Heston's Feasts. (PG) 8.30 Fun'g With Spencer Watts. (PG) 9.00 Hidden Italy. (PG) 9.30 Dine With Me UK. (PG) 10.30 The Cook Up. 11.00 Late Programs.	7BRAVO (CH 65) 6.00 Shark Tank. (PG) 7.00 Undercover Boss. (PG) 8.00 Million Dollar Listing NY. (PG) 9.00 Top Chef. (PG) 10.00 Shark Tank. (PG) 11.00 Undercover Boss. (PG) 12.00 Snapped. (M) 1.00 Housewives Of Beverly Hills. (M) 2.00 Shark Tank. (PG) 3.00 Judge Jerry. (PG) 3.30 Jimmy Fallon. (PG) 4.30 Million Dollar Listing NY. (PG) 5.30 Undercover Boss. (PG) 6.30 Shark Tank. (PG) 7.30 Botched. (M) 8.30 Paris In Love. (M) 9.30 The Real Housewives Of Miami. (M) 10.30 Snapped. (M) 11.30 The Real Housewives Of Orange County. (M) 12.30 Botched. (M) 1.30 Paris In Love. (M) 2.30 The Real Housewives Of Miami. (M) 3.30 Snapped. (M) 4.30 Late Programs.	9LIFE (CH 83) 6.00 House Hunters Int. 6.30 House Hunters. 7.00 Beachfront Bargain Buy: Renovation. 8.00 Garden Gurus. 8.30 The Block. (PG) 9.30 House Hunters Int. 10.30 House Hunters. 11.00 Hot Properties: San Diego. 11.30 Yard Crashers. (PG) 12.00 Christina On The Coast. (PG) 1.00 House Hunters. 2.00 Hawaii Life. 3.00 The Block. (PG) 4.00 Hot Properties: San Diego. 4.30 Yard Crashers. (PG) 5.00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt: Renovation. 6.00 House Hunters Int. 7.00 House Hunters. 7.30 Escape To The Chateau. 8.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. 9.30 Restoration Man. (PG) 11.30 House Hunters Int. 12.30 House Hunters. 1.00 Late Programs.	NITV (CH 34) 6.00 Morning Programs. 8.15 Spartakus And The Sun Beneath The Sea. 8.40 Crazy Smart Science. 9.05 The Magic Canoe. 9.30 Toi Time. 10.00 Kenya Wildlife Diaries. (PG) 10.55 Going Places. (PG) 12.50 Singing Country. 1.20 Who We Are: Brave New Clan. 2.15 Nimbinjara. (PG) 2.30 The Cook Up. 3.00 Motown Magic. 3.25 Aussie Bush Tales. 3.40 Fresh Fairytails. 4.00 Crazy Smart Science. 4.30 Spartakus And The Sun Beneath The Sea. (PG) 5.00 Our Stories. (PG) 5.30 Indian Country Today News. 6.00 Bamay. 6.30 News. 6.40 Kenya Wildlife Diaries. (PG) 7.30 The Casketeers. (PG) 8.30 MOVIE White Chicks. (2004) 10.25 Faboriginal. 10.55 Late Programs.
7FLIX (CH 66) 6.00 It's Academic. 7.00 Oh Yuck. 8.00 Flushed. 9.00 Home Shopping. 10.30 Zumbo's Just Desserts. (PG) 11.30 Travel And Eat With Dan & Steph. (PG) 12.00 Smash. (M) 1.00 Chicago Fire. (M) 3.00 Black-ish. (PG) 3.30 Modern Family. (PG) 5.30 Bondi Vet. (PG) 6.30 First Dates Australia. (PG) 7.30 First Dates UK. (M) 8.35 MOVIE Father Of The Bride. Steve Martin, Diane Keaton. (1991) 10.50 MOVIE All The President's Men. Dustin Hoffman, Robert Redford, Jack Warden. (1976, MI) 1.40 First Dates Australia. (PG) 2.30 First Dates UK. (M) 3.00 Absentia. (MA15+) 4.00 S.W.A.T. (M)	RATING ADVICE: (PG) Parental Guidance (M) Mature Audiences (MA15+) Mature Audiences Only Please note: Listings are correct at the time of print and are subject to change by networks. CONSUMER ADVICE: a: adult themes; d: drug references; h: horror; l: language; n: nudity; s: sexual references; v: violence. CC: Closed Captions; b&w: Black & White; R: Repeat.			

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GOSFORD GALLOPS

DAILY DOUBLE 5 & 7

EARLY QUADRI 1, 2, 3, 4

TREBLE 5, 6, 7

QUADRELLA 4, 5, 6, 7

BIGGE 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

TRACK: GOOD (4)

RAIL: OUT 3M

1 1.10 Maiden's nats @ TEG Plate 2100m

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1	75134	SUPERTRAIL (7)	M Bell	59	90	\$2.90
2	33616	THE BIG BIG (4)	Ms J Taylor	59	90	6.00
3	67546	GALLIVANTER w (6)	D Gibbons (a)	57	100	3.00
4	51484	MISS MONOPOLY (1)	Ms M Weir	57	90	23.00
5	9050	LUNAR RISING (3)	A Morgan	56.5	73	71.00
6	4543	RAPID IMPACT (2)	Ms A Collett	56.5	95	5.00
7	57	BLUE AS BLUE (5)	T Schiller	55	88	6.00
8	89999	DARK LEVER (8)	Ms R Freeman	55	83	\$15.00

RAPID IMPACT, Supertrail, Gallivanter, The Big Big

2 1.45 Spring Loaded @ TEG 10/2 1200m

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1	51141	BALLISTIC THERAPY (7)	Ms D Panya	60	93	7.50
2	19313	CHAMPERS GIRL w (8)	J Parr	59	90	90.00
3	52786	OUR LADY STARDUST (1)	Scratched	59	—	—
4	56083	SILENT RAINPODS dw (6)	S Clipperton	59	100	3.90
5	1	YANKEE ONE tw (4)	J Collett	58	98	\$1.65
6	05331	SUCCESSFUL dw (2)	T Schiller	57	90	90.00
7	92195	SHADAY (3)	Ms A Collett	56.5	87	71.00
8	57464	MOSHT UP dw (5)	Ms M Bourke (a3)	55	93	23.00

YANKEE ONE, Silent Rainpods, Ballistic Therapy, Champers Girl

3 2.20 East Coast Beverages 1600m

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1	62563	THERMODYNAMIC (7)	J Collett	59	100	\$1.55
2	59232	WILD CALM (10)	H Van Der Horst	59	87	5.00
3	22636	AVONVIEW (5)	T Schiller	58	91	4.60
4	236	MISS REILLY b (1)	Scratched	56	—	—
5	8	GLEBE (4)	Ms K O'Hara	57	73	23.00
6	65620	HONGKONG HARMONY (8)	Ms J Duggan	56	83	19.00
7	56299	KANOZOI (1)	Ms D Panya	55	80	26.00
8	56466	MISSAYTER (9)	Ms M Weir	55	77	10.00
9	96675	PRINCE SIX (6)	Ms E Hennessy	55	70	51.00
10	58767	TYPHOON RAY (3)	Ms J Day	55	81	17.00
11	59688	YOU AND I (2)	R Jones	55	75	26.00

WILD CALM, Thermodynamic, Avonview, Glebe

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MORNINGTON GALLOPS

DAILY DOUBLE 6 & 8

E/QUAD 1, 2, 3, 4

TREBLE 6, 7, 8

QUADRELLA 5, 6, 7, 8

TRACK: GOOD (4)

RAIL: OUT 4M

Gear Changes

RACE 1: (2) Mrs Gossip tongue-tie on first time; (3) Transpose ear muffs on first time, pacifiers on first time; (6) Ocean Mocean tongue-tie on first time
RACE 2: (1) Dazzling Sky barrier blank on first time, cross-over noseband on first time, pre-race ear muffs on first time, gelded, tongue-tie on first time; (3) Mintman blinkers on first time, cross-over noseband on first time; (4) Tizio gelded; (8) Our Cracklin Rosie blinkers on first time; (9) Pia Mia pre-race ear muffs on first time
RACE 4: (1) Anointed Lad gelded; (2) Free To Play visors on first time; (5) Lonestar Jack blinkers on first time; (8) Starvitzel pre-race ear muffs on first time, gelded, tongue-tie on first time; (10) Atomic Diva nose roll off first time, tongue-tie on first time
RACE 5: (1) Deel Blaster blinkers on first time, pre-race ear muffs on first time, visors on first time; (5) Count Of Sancerre tongue-tie off first time
RACE 6: (3) Helavabel front pads off first time, visors on first time, blinkers on first time; (6) Savannahlander synthetic hoof filler off first time; (9) Chaichna blinkers off again, visors on first time
RACE 7: (5) Hammer Springs blinkers on again; (7) Steele Liberty norton bit off first time
RACE 8: (2) Trigeriffic tongue-tie off first time, visors on first time; (6) Ludder Valley cross-over noseband on first time, tongue-tie on first time; (8) Bencoolen cross-over noseband on first time; (9) Day In Heaven blinkers on first time, visors on first time; (13) Moetsa blinkers on first time, cross-over noseband off first time; (14) Orion The Hunter blinkers on first time, tongue-tie off first time

1 1.30 Highview Accounting Plate 1500m

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1	90655	LUNAR FROST (6)	Ms C Hefel (a)	58	90	14.00
2	7	MRS GROSSI (7)	R McLeod	58	90	2.70
3	09598	TRANSPROSE (1)	Ms D Keane (a3)	58	79	19.00
4	9	VISACI (4)	J Mott	58	95	19.00
5	0	ESTABLISH (5)	B Mertens	56.5	78	6.00
6	8	OCEAN MOCEAN (7)	J Mott	56.5	73	21.00
7	5	REBELLIOUS HOPE (2)	L King	56.5	100	\$1.85

REBELLIOUS HOPE, Mrs Gossip, Visac, Lunar Frost

2 2.00 Mottech Group Electricians Plate 2430m

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1	006	CARIVINO (7)	Scratched	59.5	—	—
2	72648	LONESTAR CHARLIE (1)	Ms S Clarke (a2)	59.5	91	11.00
3	65574	RAMBAULT h (6)	P Gall	59	96	9.50
4	50673	THINK D'ORO h (4)	J Noonan	59.5	94	9.50
5	054	TWOODLOU h (2)	B Higgins	59	95	4.60
6	38684	BLACK AUTUMN (5)	Ms A Herrmann	58	96	4.80
7	77252	SAMBUCUS (8)	J Mott	58	97	\$2.20
8	04428	LADY SAN CHEZ (3)	J Luxe	57.5	100	—
9	6947	PERDIZ h (9)	R McLeod	56	85	70.00

SAMBUCUS, Think D'oro, Black Autumn, Twooodlou

3 2.30 Tony Noonan Social Syn. Plate 1000m

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1	0	DAZZLING SKY h (7)	J Noonan	58	57	9.50
2	0	JASKIER (4)	M Dee	58	75	5.50
3	0	MINTMAN (3)	D Moor	58	66	19.00
4	0	TIZIO (2)	B Kinninnmont (a)	58	60	21.00
5	0	CONFINE (8)	M Cartwright	56	63	26.00
6	82	HEIRESS h (5)	B Mertens	56	95	\$2.25
7	0	MISSILE GIRL (6)	W P Finn (a)	56	63	26.00
8	54622	OUR CRACKLIN ROSIE h (9)	J Spain	56	100	2.70
9	0	PIA MIA (1)	Scratched	56	—	—

HEIRESS, Our Cracklin Rosie, Dazzling Sky, Jaskier

GALLOPS LEGEND: T Won at track, C Won here this distance, d Won this distance on another course, w Won on rain affected going, n Won at night, s Spelt off three months, b Beaten favourite last start, h Home track, D Disqualified, F Fell, P Pulled up, L Lost rider.

Gear Changes

RACE 1: (1) Supertrail blinkers off first time, blinkers on first time; (5) Lunar Rising blinkers on first time; (6) Rapid Impact blinkers off first time, visors on first time; (8) Dark Lever blinkers off first time, blinkers on again
RACE 2: (4) Silent Rainpods blinkers on first time; (7) Shaday blindfold on first time, blinkers on first time, pre-race ear muffs on first time
RACE 3: (3) Avonview blinkers off first time
RACE 4: (4) Flower Press tongue-tie on again; (6) Martial Music synthetic hoof filler off first time
RACE 5: (1) Aix En Provence gelded; (2) Here Comes Hogan pre-race ear muffs on first time, gelded, lunging bit on first time; (4) Tannenburg pre-race ear muffs on first time, gelded, lunging bit on first time; (5) Warilla Gorilla gelded; (6) Ravisher ear muffs off first time; (7) Scarlett Aplenty tongue-tie on first time; (8) Uncut Gem blinkers off first time, near-side bubble cheeker off first time, hanoverian noseband on first time, nose roll on first time
RACE 6: (4) Chief Witness gelded; (5) Honeyinthemoney pre-race ear muffs on first time; (7) Flying Rani pre-race ear muffs on first time; (8) Mathkhooza cross-over noseband off first time, tongue-tie on again; (15) Tannenburg pre-race ear muffs on first time, gelded, lunging bit on first time; (16) Ravisher ear muffs off first time
RACE 7: (1) My Truth pre-race ear muffs on first time; (5) Kadall gelded

4 2.55 Canadian Club Midway 1000m

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1	29054	SHOTMAKER wn (7)	J Collett	60.5	88	7.50
2	55651	BORDER CONTROL dthw (6)	D Gibbons (a)	59.5	91	\$2.10
3	935	ABULIA h (2)	Ms J Taylor	59	100	4.80
4	83185	FLOWER PRESS w (8)	Ms L Day	58	90	7.50
5	115	STENSON WALLMAN d (4)	C Schofield	57	82	3.80
6	15745	MARTIAL MUSIC dw (3)	T Schiller	56	94	60.00
7	40514	RUSSIAN ASSASSIN w (5)	Scratched	55	—	—
8	56052	THUNDER ROSE (1)	Ms J Duggan	55	78	31.00

MARTIAL MUSIC, Abula, Border Control, Stenson Wallman

5 3.35 Industree Group Plate 1200m

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1	2	AIX EN PROVENCE (4)	Scratched	57.5	—	—
2	0	HERE COMES HOGAN (7)	M Bell	57.5	78	13.00
3	0	SWEEDEN (1)	Ms J Presits (a2)	57.5	62	81.00
4	0	TANNENBURG (12)	Scratched	57.5	—	—
5	2	WARILLA GORILLA b (10)	Scratched	57.5	—	—
6	685	RAVISHER (3)	Ms K O'Hara	57	100	5.50
7	658	SCARLETT APLENTY (13)	Scratched	57	—	—
8	34564	UNCUT GEM (6)	R Hutchings	57	89	9.50
9	45522	COSY CORNER (5)	J Collett	55.5	98	\$2.00
10	4544	FIELD OF MYRTLE (9)	T Schiller	55.5	92	9.00
11	6573	GO ISLA GO (8)	Ms J Duggan	55.5	84	14.00
12	95	MIDNIGHT AFFAIR (2)	Zac Lloyd (a)	55.5	81	61.00
13	0	TIGON PRINCESS (1)	D Gibbons (a)	55.5	77	4.80

TIGON PRINCESS, Cosy Corner, Here Comes Hogan, Uncut Gem

6 4.10 Rock @ the Races 23/3 Super Maiden 1100m

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1	275	FIRE TRIBE (9)	Ms K O'Hara	59	92	12.00
2	20	OKFIELD BADGER h (12)	R Jones	59	21.00	—
3	55	AGAINST THE LAW (13)	Zac Lloyd (a)	58.5	100	7.00
4	0	CHIEF WITNESS (2)	S Clipperton	58.5	67	8.50
5	0	HONEYIN THE MONEY (7)	R Hutchings	58	75	34.00
6	945	NEWSEAT (1)	A Morgan	58	80	23.00
7	0	FLYING RANI (4)	Scratched	57.5	—	—
8	475	MATHKHOOZA (5)	T Schiller	56.5	79	4.60
9	3	NEPERTARI (15)	J Parr	56.5	82	14.00
10	54946	APONI (1)	Ms M Bourke (a3)	56	72	15.00
11	5653	FIRST PERSON (3)	D Gibbons (a)	56	91	8.50
12	0	KOBOLD (16)	Scratched	56	—	—
13	85552	LA PELAGO (1)	Ms J Duggan	56	85	23.00
14	575	LADY BRULEE h (6)	L Magorrian	56	93	34.00

EMERGENCIES

15 TANNENBURG (8) J Collett 58.5 70 4.80

16 RAVISHER (4) 57.5 94 8.00

FLYING RANI, First Person, Ravisher, Against The Law

1. FIRE TRIBE (Joseph Pridg) 3G 20-1-0 \$8550: Keen when 1½ len 2nd of 12 (6) \$15.00 56.5 Jabali Bees 1100m Hawkesbury Mdn Plate Soft(5) May 18. Lane 2/5 when 5½ len 7th of 11 (7) \$90.00 58.0 Piercing Arrow 1200m W Farm 2yo Mdn Hcp Good(4) May 31. Strips fitter for 5½ len 4th King Of Dubai 812m W Farm barrier trial Mdn Good(4) Nov 8. First-up back to easier level and should be very competitive. Place claims.
2. OKFIELD BADGER (Ms K Buchanan) 4G 20-1-0 \$10,000: Raced wide without cover when 1½ len 2nd of 14 (10) \$3.60 59.0 Rapt 1250m Taree Mdn Plate Good(4) Oct 20. Keen, heat stress when 9¼ len last of 10 (6) \$2.50 59.0 Smart Action 1300m Newcastle E&G Mdn Good(4) Nov 4. Showed pace but gave in easily at Newcastle last time. No appeal.
3. AGAINST THE LAW (Brett Heys) 3C 10-0-0 \$5,000: Began awkwardly when 5½ len 5th of 7 (6) \$10.00 56.0 Ozmoosis 1100m Rtwk 2yo Hcp Soft(5) June 10. Had the benefit of 1½ len 4th King Of Dubai 809m W Farm barrier trial (Mdn) Good(4) Oct 23. Resuming. More experienced following debut. Consider.
4. CHIEF WITNESS (Joseph Pridg) 3G 0-0-0-0 \$0: First start. Kicks off here after 14th Jagrit 1050m Rtwk barrier trial (Mdn) Good(4) Nov 3. Trials: (4-0-0-1) Had performed fairly in an earlier trial. Nice gate. Forward showing anticipated.
5. HONEYIN THE MONEY (Brad Widdup) 4M 0-0-0-0 \$0: First start. Launching career here after 5 len 6th Storm The Ramparts 792m W Farm barrier trial Good(4) Oct 5. Trials: (0-0-0-0). Unplaced in only trial. In very astute hands. Monitor betting moves.
6. NEWSEAT (Matthew Smith) 4G 3-0-0-0 \$5300: Began awkwardly, keen when 3½ len 4th of 10 (10) \$91.00 59.0 Gustosissimo 1000m Hawkesbury 3yo F&G Mdn Good(4) Oct 6. Battled away for 3½ len 5th of 11 (4) \$4.00 58.0 Lunatic 1200m Scope Super Mdn Soft(6) Oct 27. Battled on fairly at Rane at latest. Place preferred.
7. FLYING RANI (Matthew Smith) 3F 1-0-1-0 \$7450: Shifted in at start, bumped rival, wide middle stages when ¼ len 2nd of 9 (5) \$4.20 55.5 Storm The Ramparts 1000m Gosford Mdn Good(4) Nov 2. Solid debut performance and sure to improve into this. Looks one of the main chances.

8. LA PELAGO (C J Waller) 4M 20-0-0 \$6875: First-up finished 2½ len 5th of 12 (5) \$5.00 55.0 Dressed To Kill 1000m Tarramworth Mdn Plate Good(4) Oct 13. Hung out near turn, laid out in straight, vetted - no abnormalities when ½ len 2nd of 10 (5) \$2.80 55.0 Little Bit Flash 1100m Wellington Mdn Good(4) Oct 30. On pace and fought bravely to place at Wellington last outing. Place hope.
14. LADY BRULEE (Jake Hull) 4M 3-0-0-0 \$4450: Beaten but not disgraced when 1½ len 4th of 8 (5) \$31.00 56.5 Strider 1100m Gosford Mdn Soft(5) June 8. Failed to fire 7½ len 7th of 9 (8) \$20.00 57.0 Afteroomer 1400m Newcastle Mdn Good(4) June 24. Primed for return with sht hd, 1½ len 3rd Jo Jo Sun, Caplarity 800m Beaumont barrier trial (Mdn) Good(4) Oct 24. Resuming. Can't have.
15. TANNENBURG (C J Waller) 3G 0-0-0-0 \$0: First start. Prepared for debut with 1½ len 2nd Getty 900m Rhl barrier trial Mdn Soft(7) Nov 4. Trials: (5-0-1-0). Has shown enough at the trials. Respectable. Bared close watching.
16. RAVISHER (C J Waller) 4M 20-0-0 \$3200: Began awkwardly, raced wide without cover, laid out in straight when 2½ len 6th of 8 (4) \$4.90 59.0 Konasana 1150m Randwick-Kensington F&G Mdn Good(4) June 14. Shifted out at start, laid out in straight, vetted - no abnormalities when 4¼ len 5th of 8 (2) \$20.00 55.0 Perelle 1150m Randwick-Kensington 3yo Mdn Soft(5) July 5. Fitter for 3½ len 3rd Writty 900m Rhl barrier trial (Mdn) Soft(7) Nov 6. First-up. Good gate. Back to provincial level. Knockout chance.

ALBURY HARNESS

CODE: CH

DAILY DOUBLE 5 & 7

E/QUAD 1, 2, 3, 4

TREBLE 6, 7, 8

QUADRELLA 5, 6, 7, 8

FRONT LINE: MOBILE (6) STAND (7)

1 6.07 TAB Venue Mode Pace 1770m

No	Form	Horse	Driver	Hcp	Price
1	35956	OKTOLEVO	K W Weidenbach	Fr	6.50
2	73033	LIFE GETS BETTER	M A Harrington	Fr	5.00
3	76224	NIFTY JOLT	T M Youl (C)	Fr	6.50
4	32519	COMPLICATED	C J Maggs	Fr	18.00
5	40284	GLAMORS SYMBOL	J P Kahlefeldt (C)	Fr	4.00
6	05712	AGENT CALLAN	J G Painting	Fr	11.00

SECOND ROW

7 83006 MY ULTIMATE JACKO A C Markham Fr 31.00

8 59954 TROUPER JUJON M A Towers (C) Fr 21.00

NIFTY JOLT, Oktolovo, Glamors Symbol, Life Gets Better

2 6.40 Lavington Lions Membership Drive 1770m

No	Form	Horse	Driver	Hcp	Price
1	576s3	BIDGEE BABE	S P Hallcroft	Fr	15.00
2	s2051	ALL GOOD	T M Youl (C)	Fr	9.00
3	76707	MISSDEHEIR	B K Smith	Fr	5.50
4	57226	HEAVENS HURRICANE	B K Duck (C)	Fr	7.50
5	26819	MOVIN ON UP	B D Micallef	Fr	*2.50
6	s99u7	MARCHELLO GOLD	C J Maggs	Fr	31.00

SPORT RUGBY LEAGUE

Sharks fly into 2024 with 'easiest' fixtures of any club

Scott Bailey, Jasper Bruce

NRL chief executive Andrew Abdo insists the league's draw is as fair as it possibly can be after Cronulla emerged as the biggest winners out of the globetrotting 2024 schedule.

The NRL announced its

fixtures on Monday, with South Sydney and Parramatta handed two of the toughest draws as they fight to return to the finals.

It came as the NRL heralded a new era for the game, with Manly and the Rabbitohs kicking off in a Las Vegas double-header on March 2

with close to 20,000 tickets already sold.

But it is the Sharks who should walk away from Monday the happiest, after bowing out of the first week of the finals this year.

Craig Fitzgibbon's boys in black and blue only have nine games against 2023's

top-eight teams, the least of any club in the draw.

They also only play the Warriors twice out of last season's top four, while facing all of the bottom four from 2023 two times.

In contrast, Melbourne have suffered the toughest run.

Craig Bellamy's perfect round-one record will face its sternest test against Penrith on March 8.

And in what looms as potentially his last season, Bellamy's Storm cop all other teams from last season's top four twice and have 12 games against 2023 finalists.

'Wait and see' on 'club legends'

Melanie Dinjaski

THE Canberra Raiders are willing to be patient when it comes to veterans Jordan Rapana and Elliott Whitehead deciding their footy future beyond 2024.

Both players are on the final year of their NRL contracts with the Raiders next season.

With November 1 passing, the 34-year-old pair are among the 15 Raiders players now free to negotiate with other clubs for 2025.

Rapana and Whitehead may be tempted to get one more payday and extend with the Raiders before hanging up the boots, or they may decide to retire after next season, but for now the club are not feeling pressured to know the duo's plans.

"It could be both of their last year. It's a bit of a 'wait and see' situation," Canberra Raiders chief executive Don Furner told *The Canberra Times*.

"We'll give them the respect and the time that they need because they're both legends at this club."

Rapana and Whitehead are both set to notch their 200th game for the Raiders next season.

The former has scored 100 tries for the Green Machine, while Canberra's skipper has contributed 39 tries since arriving from England in 2016.

They've each battled their fair share of injuries in recent seasons, but with a changing of the guard in a youthful



Jordan Rapana is on the last year of his contract. Picture by Keegan Carroll

Raiders squad, their experience could be invaluable for coach Ricky Stuart to ease the transition process.

"Talking to Rapa, he's just happy to get through year to year," Furner said.

"Rapa always checks his body, and then comes to me and says, 'Donnie I want to do one more year'. He's been great for us.

"He's never pushy about it. We'll talk to him throughout the year.

"Elliott, he might do another year. I don't know.

"But for those two guys, it

is definitely nearing the end for them.

"They're professionals, and they've been very, very good for the young guys coming through."

Speaking in September to *The Canberra Times*, Whitehead was undecided on what he would do after the 2024 NRL season.

The second-rower said he may even see out the entire season before making a call on his future, but he emphatically denied any interest in returning to his homeland.

After calling the capital

home for nearly a decade, Whitehead and his family are settled in Canberra and the England international is hoping to secure a job with the Raiders when he does retire from rugby league.

Recently retired Jarrod Croker is set to do just that next season, following his legendary career in green.

"Hopefully I'll get some type of job with the club," Whitehead said.

"I'd like to stay around Canberra. I've really settled in here and I've got no intention to go anywhere else.

"Since I've gotten to Canberra I've really loved it, and it's really grown on me."

If Rapana and Whitehead do announce that 2024 will be their last before retiring from rugby league, their final home game next season will be a must-watch for Canberra fans to show their gratitude.

After the NRL draw was revealed on Monday, that game could be in round 25 in a Saturday afternoon clash against the Penrith Panthers on August 24, unless the Raiders get a home final.

Seiffert, Kippax could host standalone NRLW

Melanie Dinjaski

THE Canberra Raiders' NRLW team could be set to host their standalone home games next year at Seiffert Oval or Belconnen Raiders.

The 2024 NRLW draw was revealed on Monday, and featured four Raiders games in the capital, including two double-headers with the NRL at Canberra Stadium in rounds three and five, and

two standalone fixtures in rounds two and eight.

Raiders chief executive Don Furner said last season's standalone games at Bruce were a success, but they will keep an open mind about hosting them at a smaller venue next year.

"We're continually having discussions about that. We have spent a fair bit of money upgrading Belconnen Raiders - on the scoreboard,

the changerooms and the dugout. So it could host," he said.

"It's only small - it hasn't got more [capacity] than 1000 probably. We could also go to Seiffert Oval.

"So we'll keep looking at that. But the last game that we had [at Canberra Stadium] as a standalone was fantastic.

"There were kids on the field, it was a big crowd and

it was a good atmosphere."

Last season the Raiders fell heartbreakingly short of a finals debut with a final-round loss to the Titans at home. Despite the defeat, coach Darrin Borthwick was ecstatic with their performance in an inaugural season.

About half of the NRLW squad are understood to be on one-year contracts, meaning Borthwick will have

a busy off-season re-signing or discovering new talent to add to the women's team.

"You have got time with that. They don't come in till late May, early June," Furner said. "So it'll be interesting to see who Darrin signs up, but he's working on it every day."

The Raiders women will begin their 2024 campaign against the Tigers in Campbelltown on July 28.

2024 DRAW

RAIDERS MEN

- ROUND 1
v KNIGHTS (A)
ROUND 2:
v TIGERS (H)
ROUND 3:
v WARRIORS (A)
ROUND 4:
v SHARKS (A)
ROUND 5:
v EELS (H)
ROUND 6:
v TITANS (H)
ROUND 7:
v BRONCOS (A)
ROUND 8:
v SHARKS (H)
ROUND 9:
v SEA EAGLES (A)
ROUND 10:
BYE
ROUND 11:
v BULLDOGS (A)
ROUND 12:
v ROOSTERS (H)
ROUND 13:
v DOLPHINS (A)
ROUND 14:
BYE
ROUND 15:
v COWBOYS (H)
ROUND 16:
v TIGERS (A)
ROUND 17:
v STORM (A)
ROUND 18:
v KNIGHTS (H)
ROUND 19:
BYE
ROUND 20:
v WARRIORS (H)
ROUND 21:
v RABBITOHS (H)
ROUND 22:
v BULLDOGS (A)
ROUND 23:
v SEA EAGLES (H)
ROUND 24:
v COWBOYS (A)
ROUND 25:
v PANTHERS (H)
ROUND 26:
v ROOSTERS (A)
ROUND 27:
v DRAGONS (A)

RAIDERS WOMEN

- ROUND 1
v TIGERS (A)
ROUND 2:
v KNIGHTS (H)
ROUND 3:
v SHARKS (H)
ROUND 4:
v BRONCOS (A)
ROUND 5:
v COWBOYS (H)
ROUND 6:
v ROOSTERS (A)
ROUND 7:
v DRAGONS (A)
ROUND 8:
v EELS (H)
ROUND 9:
v TITANS (A)



2024 SEASON DRAW

ROUND 1

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

SEA EAGLES v RABBITOHS
at Las Vegas, 1.30pm
BRONCOS v ROOSTERS
at Las Vegas, 3.30pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

KNIGHTS v RAIDERS
at Newcastle, 8pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

WARRIORS v SHARKS
at Auckland, 6pm
STORM v PANTHERS
at Melbourne, 8.05pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

EELS v BULLDOGS
at Parramatta, 5.30pm
TITANS v DRAGONS
at Gold Coast, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

DOLPHINS v COWBOYS
at Brisbane, 4.05pm
Bye: Tigers

ROUND 2

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

BRONCOS v RABBITOHS
at Brisbane, 8pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

SHARKS v BULLDOGS
at Cronulla, 6pm
PANTHERS v EELS
at Penrith, 8.05pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

RAIDERS v TIGERS
at Canberra, 3pm
COWBOYS v KNIGHTS
at Townsville, 5.30pm

STORM v WARRIORS
at Melbourne, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

SEA EAGLES v ROOSTERS
at Brookvale, 4.05pm
DOLPHINS v DRAGONS
at Redcliffe, 6.15pm

Bye: Titans

ROUND 3

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

PANTHERS v BRONCOS
at Penrith, 8pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

WARRIORS v RAIDERS
at Christchurch, 6pm
ROOSTERS v RABBITOHS
at Moore Park, 8.05pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

BULLDOGS v TITANS
at Belmore, 3pm
DRAGONS v COWBOYS
at Kogarah, 5.30pm

TIGERS v SHARKS
at Leichhardt, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

EELS v SEA EAGLES
at Parramatta, 4.05pm
KNIGHTS v STORM
at Newcastle, 6.15pm

Bye: Dolphins

ROUND 4

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

ROOSTERS v PANTHERS
at Moore Park, 8pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

RABBITOHS v BULLDOGS
at Homebush, 4.05pm
BRONCOS v COWBOYS
at Brisbane, 8.05pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

DRAGONS v SEA EAGLES
at Wollongong, 5.30pm
TITANS v DOLPHINS
at Gold Coast, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

WARRIORS v KNIGHTS
at Auckland, 4.05pm
SHARKS v RAIDERS
at Cronulla, 6.15pm

MONDAY, APRIL 1

EELS v TIGERS
at Parramatta, 4pm
Bye: Storm

ROUND 5

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

STORM v BRONCOS

at Melbourne, 8pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

BULLDOGS v ROOSTERS
at Homebush, 6pm
KNIGHTS v DRAGONS
at Newcastle, 8.05pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

RABBITOHS v WARRIORS
at Homebush, 3pm
SEA EAGLES v PANTHERS
at Brookvale, 5.30pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

COWBOYS v TITANS
at Townsville, 4.05pm
RAIDERS v EELS
at Canberra, 6.15pm

Bye: Sharks

ROUND 6

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

KNIGHTS v ROOSTERS
at Newcastle, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

RAIDERS v TITANS
at Canberra, 6.15pm
BRONCOS v DOLPHINS
at Brisbane, 8pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

STORM v BULLDOGS
at Melbourne, 6pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

WARRIORS v SEA EAGLES
at Auckland, 3pm
EELS v COWBOYS
at Parramatta, 5.30pm

RABBITOHS v SHARKS

at Homebush, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

TIGERS v DRAGONS
at Campbelltown, 4.05pm
Bye: Panthers

ROUND 7

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

ROOSTERS v STORM
at Moore Park, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

DRAGONS v WARRIORS
at Wollongong, 6pm
EELS v DOLPHINS
at Penrith, 8pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

PANTHERS v TIGERS
at Bathurst, 3pm
TITANS v SEA EAGLES
at Gold Coast, 5.30pm

BRONCOS v RAIDERS

at Brisbane, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

BULLDOGS v KNIGHTS
at Homebush, 2pm
SHARKS v COWBOYS
at Cronulla, 4.05pm

Bye: Rabbitohs

ROUND 8

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

WARRIORS v TITANS
at Auckland, 2pm
DRAGONS v ROOSTERS
at Moore Park, 4pm

STORM v RABBITOHS

at Melbourne, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

SEA EAGLES v EELS
at Brookvale, 8pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

TIGERS v BRONCOS
at Campbelltown, 5.30pm
COWBOYS v PANTHERS
at Townsville, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

DOLPHINS v KNIGHTS
at Brisbane, 2pm
RAIDERS v SHARKS
at Canberra, 4.05pm

Bye: Bulldogs

ROUND 9

THURSDAY, MAY 2

RABBITOHS v PANTHERS
at Homebush, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, MAY 3

SEA EAGLES v RAIDERS
at Brookvale, 6pm
BRONCOS v ROOSTERS
at Brisbane, 8pm

SATURDAY, MAY 4

SEA EAGLES v TIGERS
at Brookvale, 6pm
BRONCOS v ROOSTERS
at Brisbane, 8pm

SUNDAY, MAY 5

KNIGHTS v WARRIORS
at Newcastle, 2pm

BULLDOGS v TIGERS

at Homebush, 3pm
TITANS v STORM
at Gold Coast, 5.30pm

COWBOYS v DOLPHINS

at Townsville, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, MAY 5

KNIGHTS v WARRIORS
at Newcastle, 2pm

at Canberra, 3pm

SHARKS v PANTHERS

at Cronulla, 5.30pm
RABBITOHS v EELS
at TBC, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, MAY 26

BRONCOS v TITANS
at Brisbane, 2pm
WARRIORS v DOLPHINS

at Canberra, 3pm

SEA EAGLES v DRAGONS

at Brookvale, 5.30pm
BRONCOS v DRAGONS
at Brisbane, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, JULY 14

SEA EAGLES v KNIGHTS
at Brookvale, 4.05pm
Bye: Bulldogs, Cowboys,
Storm, Warriors, Panthers,
Roosters, Raiders

ROUND 19

THURSDAY, JULY 11

DOLPHINS v RABBITOHS
at Redcliffe, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, JULY 12

SHARKS v TIGERS
at Cronulla, 8pm

SATURDAY, JULY 13

TITANS v EELS
at Gold Coast, 5.30pm
BRONCOS v DRAGONS
at Penrith, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, JULY 19

RAIDERS v WARRIORS
at Canberra, 8pm

SATURDAY, JULY 20

RABBITOHS v TIGERS
at Gosford, 3pm
KNIGHTS v BRONCOS
at Newcastle, 5.30pm

STORM v ROOSTERS

at Melbourne, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, JULY 21

PANTHERS v DOLPHINS
at Penrith, 2pm
SEA EAGLES v TITANS
at Brookvale, 4.05pm

COWBOYS v BULLDOGS

at Townsville, 6.15pm
Bye: Dragons, Eels, Sharks

ROUND 20

FRIDAY, JULY 19

RAIDERS v WARRIORS
at Canberra, 8pm

SATURDAY, JULY 20

RABBITOHS v TIGERS
at Gosford, 3pm
KNIGHTS v BRONCOS
at Newcastle, 5.30pm

STORM v ROOSTERS

at Melbourne, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, JULY 21

PANTHERS v DOLPHINS
at Penrith, 2pm
SEA EAGLES v TITANS
at Brookvale, 4.05pm

COWBOYS v BULLDOGS

at Townsville, 6.15pm
Bye: Dragons, Eels, Sharks

ROUND 21

FRIDAY, JULY 26

WARRIORS v TIGERS
at Auckland, 6pm
EELS v STORM
at Parramatta, 8pm

SATURDAY, JULY 27

BRONCOS v BULLDOGS
at Brisbane, 3pm
COWBOYS v SHARKS
at Townsville, 5.30pm

ROOSTERS v SEA EAGLES

at Moore Park, 7.35pm

at Kogarah, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

DOLPHINS v WARRIORS
at Brisbane, 2pm
KNIGHTS v TIGERS
at Newcastle, 4.05pm

Bye: Roosters

ROUND 24

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

PANTHERS v STORM
at Penrith, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

SEA EAGLES v WARRIORS
at Brookvale, 6pm
ROOSTERS v EELS
at Moore Park, 8pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

BULLDOGS v DOLPHINS
at Bundaberg, 3pm
COWBOYS v RAIDERS
at Townsville, 5.30pm

TIGERS v RABBITOHS

at Campbelltown, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

DRAGONS v TITANS
at Wollongong, 2pm
SHARKS v KNIGHTS
at Cronulla, 4.05pm

Bye: Broncos

ROUND 25

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

TIGERS v SEA EAGLES
at Leichhardt Oval, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

WARRIORS v BULLDOGS
at Auckland, 6pm
BRONCOS v EELS
at Brisbane, 8pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

RAIDERS v PANTHERS
at Canberra, 3pm
STORM v DOLPHINS
at Melbourne, 5.30pm

RABBITOHS v KNIGHTS

at Homebush, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

TITANS v ROOSTERS
at Gold Coast, 2pm
DRAGONS v SHARKS
at Wollongong, 4.05pm

Bye: Cowboys

ROUND 26

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

COWBOYS v STORM
at Townsville, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

BULLDOGS v SEA EAGLES
at Homebush, 6pm
PANTHERS v RABBITOHS
at Penrith, 8pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

EELS v DRAGONS
at Parramatta, 3pm
BRONCOS v DOLPHINS
at Brisbane, 5.30pm

SHARKS v WARRIORS

at Cronulla, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

KNIGHTS v TITANS
at Newcastle, 2pm
ROOSTERS v RAIDERS
at Moore Park, 4.05pm

Bye: Tigers

ROUND 27

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

BRONCOS v STORM
at Brisbane, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

TIGERS v EELS
at Campbelltown, 6pm
RABBITOHS v ROOSTERS
at Homebush, 8pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

DRAGONS v RAIDERS
at Kogarah, 3pm
BULLDOGS v COWBOYS
at Homebush, 5.30pm

PANTHERS v TITANS

at Penrith, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

SEA EAGLES v SHARKS
at Brookvale, 2pm
KNIGHTS v DOLPHINS
at Newcastle, 4.05pm

Bye: Warriors



SHARKS v DRAGONS
at Cronulla, 4.05pm
Bye: Eels

ROUND 10

THURSDAY, MAY 9

DOLPHINS v SEA EAGLES
at Redcliffe, 7.50pm

FRIDAY, MAY 10

EELS v BRONCOS
at Parramatta, 8pm
PANTHERS v BULLDOGS
at Penrith, 6pm

SATURDAY, MAY 11

TIGERS v KNIGHTS
at Tamworth, 3pm
DRAGONS v RABBITOHS
at Kogarah, 5.30pm

STORM v SHARKS

at Melbourne, 7.35pm

SUNDAY, MAY 12

ROOSTERS v WARRIORS
at Moore Park, 2pm
TITANS v COWBOYS
at Gold Coast, 4.05pm

ROUND 11

(MAGIC ROUND)

FRIDAY, MAY 17

BULLDOGS v RAIDERS
at Brisbane, 6pm
BRONCOS v SEA EAGLES
at Brisbane, 8.05pm

SPORT

Weetangara Primary claims ACT title

Volleyball: Weetangara Primary School has cemented its place as the best volleyball school in the capital after beating Maribyrnong in the final of a junior competition on the weekend. After battling teams from more than 100 schools, Weetangara held on for a narrow win in the final of the Ozspike tournament. Now in its 10th year, the joint Ozspike and Volleyball ACT event organised by Olympian Rachel Uren has grown to provide a development pathway for the ACT Heat senior teams.



Officials scramble to lock in ALW venue

Soccer: Canberra United are still waiting to find out where they're playing this weekend as A-League officials scramble to lock in a venue after a game was moved away from Bathurst. Canberra were supposed to face the Western Sydney Wanderers at Carrington Park before officials deemed the pitch unsuitable due to "unseasonably cool conditions that have impacted the pitch's preparation". The Wanderers confirmed on November 3 the match would be moved to Sydney, but Canberra are still in the dark as to exactly where.

The Shak attack is back: Reilly elevated to Capitals' main roster

BASKETBALL

Caden Helmers

SHAKERA Reilly figured her WNBL days might have been over.

She was settled at home in the Hunter with a kelpie named Ziggy when Canberra Capitals coach Kristen Veal came calling about a development contract.

Now Reilly, who played for the Capitals during their 2019-20 championship-winning season, has been elevated to fill the void left by season-ending injuries to Chloe Tugliach and Tahlia Tupaea.

"Initially I didn't really think I was going to end up back in this position again. I was shocked but so excited, very lucky," Reilly said.

"It was really cool when we first had our chat [about joining the main roster]. I was pretty shocked, because it has always been a goal of mine to get to that point. For Veal to have the trust in me to fill that position was really cool. It's been awesome. I've really missed it the last few years, it's really nice to get back into the groove and the professional side of things."

Reilly played under Paul Goriss during her stint in Canberra and the pair have linked up again with the title-winning mentor back on deck as an assistant to Veal this season.

Goriss says Reilly has returned to the Capitals a far more well-rounded player following NBL1 stints with Mount Gambier and Maitland.

Now Reilly has a big chance to prove it when the Capitals face the Sydney Flames at Sydney Olympic Park's Quaycentre on Wednesday, before flying to Townsville to face the Fire on Saturday.

"She knows this is a step in the right direction to cement a permanent spot in the Caps team in the future," Goriss said.

"I've just noticed her strength in what she has gained by going away and playing after her first season here with us.

"Playing in the NBL1 has given her more confidence and she has fitted seamlessly back into the Caps group.

"I've just seen her grow as a player, her skill level is better, her confidence better in what she does, and she looks at ease back on the court in the WNBL.

"She still needs to continue to learn the game, but you can just see her confidence in her shooting, she has taken it to another level [as well as] her confidence defensively, being able to defend in the WNBL.

"She has made great strides in being able to be a part of the current Caps group."



Shakera Reilly has been elevated to the Capitals' main roster. Picture Capitals Media

Fisher to work with next-gen

RUGBY UNION

FORMER ACT Brumbies coaching guru Laurie Fisher is set to turn his attention to a new generation of players after being added to the Australian under-20s staff for next year.

Fisher has been recruited by head coach Nathan Grey to work with rising stars who have been earmarked as future Wallabies. His role will be to assist at training and development camps ahead of the first camp in February.

Fisher retired from full-time coaching at the end of the 2023 Super Rugby campaign, ending almost 20 years in the Brumbies set up.

But he is already in Japan working as a consultant and will continue to take on various roles, with Rugby Australia keen to ensure his knowledge is passed down to coaches and players.

The Australian under-20s team will play in a Rugby Championship for the first time next year against the best juniors from New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina.

"We are excited with the talent that has emerged from this year's Super Rugby under-19s tournament, and we believe the players we have selected have the potential to make a significant impact on the international stage," Grey said. There were 18 Brumbies players picked in the preliminary 45-man squad.



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Kerr's back on target for Chelsea after quiet start to season

SUPER LEAGUE

SAM Kerr has ended a quiet spell for Chelsea by getting back to her familiar prolific ways with a second goal of the Women's Super League season in their win at Everton.

With injury concerns and a trip back home for Olympic

qualifiers having made it a largely unproductive start to the English campaign for the two-time Golden Boot winner, Kerr struck in deadly fashion to help the champions to a 3-0 stroll.

It proved a good day for Emma Hayes' side as they strengthened their position

at the top of the league, with Manchester City surprisingly losing 1-0 at home to Brighton & Hove Albion.

Arsenal moved up to second, three points adrift of Chelsea, with a come-from-behind 6-2 win at Leicester City. Matildas star Caitlin Foord scored one, to make it

3-2, and assisted for another in a stunning second half after trailing 2-0 at the break.

Compatriots Steph Catley played a full game and Kyra Cooney-Cross was subbed out in the 90th minute on a successful outing for the visitors, while Courtney Nevill battled for the beaten Foxes.

Kerr has not been at her brilliant best yet for Chelsea this season, with her only goal for them in her first three matches having come against West Ham United, and she was rested last weekend after a trip back to Australia for the Matildas' Olympic qualifiers.

But the 30-year-old was back at her sharpest at Everton's Walton Hall Park home when she muscled ahead of the home defence to divert Johanna Rytting Kaneryd's sharp low cross from the right into the net just after the hour mark to put Chelsea two up.

AMBITIOUS Behich says Roos want to qualify for next World Cup in style

Socceroos 'are aiming for top spot'

SOCCEROOS

UNDER a weight of expectation, Aziz Behich has declared the Socceroos hell-bent on reaching the 2026 World Cup in style by topping their Asian qualifying groups.

An increased number of direct qualification spots from Asia - up from four to eight - leaves a greater margin for error in pursuit of a berth at the expanded 48-team tournament. But Behich doesn't want to see the Socceroos limp through the qualification phase, let alone rely on another intercontinental play-off.

Australia's qualifying campaign kicks off with matches against Bangladesh at AAMI Park on Thursday night and Palestine in Kuwait five days later.

"We want to top the group throughout the whole process, so that's our main goal," Behich said.

"We're not worried about how many teams qualify. We went through the play-off phase again last campaign and we don't want to do that again."

The Socceroos, ranked 27th in the world, are heavily favoured to top the second-round qualifying group against Palestine (96), Lebanon (104) and Bangladesh (183). The top two teams

advance to the third round, from which they can qualify directly for the World Cup.

Against little-known opponents in the second round, Behich insisted the Socceroos' focus will be on

their own performances in a return to competitive action after recent friendlies against New Zealand, England and Mexico.

"We're not looking for an underdog or a favourite

or whatever," Behich said. "Internally, we know what we can produce on the pitch and what we expect from ourselves, and that's high standards."

"It's going to be no different if we (play against) a lower-ranked nation or a higher one. It's an international football game. We just want to get better every camp and every game."

Left-back Behich, who has rejoined Melbourne City

this season after a decade abroad, said the Socceroos will relish playing qualifiers on home soil.

It comes after a significant portion of the 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign was played in a hub after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was difficult for us, no home games pretty much, so we're excited that the first game's at home in front of our fans," Behich said.



Aziz Behich says the Socceroos are excited to take on Bangladesh in front of home fans on Thursday. Picture AAP

We just want to get better every camp and every game.

Aziz Behich

ATLETICO SET WINS RECORD

Atletico Madrid have come from behind to defeat Villarreal 3-1 in Spain's La Liga and move within six points of surprise leaders Girona.

It was a club-record 15th straight league home win for Atletico, surpassing the run of 14 victories in a row at the Vicente Calderon Stadium between May 2012 and February 2013. Atletico fell behind when Gerard Moreno scored in the 20th minute, but the hosts rallied with goals by Axel Witsel in first-half added time, Antoine Griezmann in the 80th and Samuel Lino in the 85th. It was the seventh goal in six matches for Griezmann who, along with Alvaro Morata, is leading an attack that has scored 29 goals in 12 league matches.

Atletico were coming off a 6-0 home rout of Celtic in the Champions League and are unbeaten in 12 games in all competitions, with 10 wins and two draws. Meanwhile, Polish ace Robert Lewandowski struck twice to lead Barcelona to a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Alaves, moving them to within four points of Girona.

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SPORT

Selectors preparing for life after Lanning

CRICKET

Scott Bailey

AUSTRALIA coach Shelley Nitschke admits a changing of the guard has hit her faster than expected, as officials hold off a decision on Meg Lanning's full-time successor.

Selectors will announce a squad for next month's multi-format tour of India today, less than a week after Lanning's shock retirement call. It's unlikely a captain will be named until closer to Australia's December 13 departure, with a decision still needing to be made and approved by the Cricket Australia board.

Alyssa Healy remains the front-runner, the 33-year-old having put her hand up for the job after leading Australia in Lanning's absence for parts of the past year. Tahlia McGrath is the other potential option if officials prefer a longer-term replacement, given the 28-year-old has served as Healy's deputy on recent tours.

"There's quite a few things to weigh up around it," Nitschke said.

"It's just a matter of going through the process. Sitting down with the selectors and people who make those decisions and working out what's the best thing moving forward."

Nitschke knew when she took over as coach last year she would oversee a significant period of transition in the all-conquering women's team. But that time has arrived after Lanning and her previous deputy Rachael Haynes retired in the space of 14 months following a five-year period of Australian dominance.

A shootout, a Comet and the GOAT: Canberra's PM's XI wish list for Albo



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will have a say in who faces Pakistan at Manuka Oval. Picture by Keegan Carroll

CRICKET

Caden Helmers

WE WON'T sit here and tell Anthony Albanese how to run the country, so we won't tell him how to pick his Prime Minister's XI either.

"Obviously it's his game, he should have his fingerprints on selection," Cricket ACT chief executive Olivia Thornton grinned.

We just want to give him a few pointers about what Canberra cricket fans want to see when the Prime Minister's XI face Pakistan at Manuka Oval in a four-day

game - which could double as a Test audition - from December 6.

THE SHOOTOUT

Is this Manuka Oval or the wild west?

What Thornton labels "one of the best stadiums in Australia" could host a shootout to determine David Warner's replacement at the top of the order for the Australian Test side this summer.

Warner has already scripted his own farewell - and a departure after January's SCG Test means selectors

need to find a new opener for a series beginning 10 days later.

Cam Bancroft is the Sheffield Shield's leading run scorer with 458 at 76.33, while Matt Renshaw - who scored a century in last year's Prime Minister's XI fixture - has scored 300 at 42.85. Marcus Harris and Henry Hunt have also featured in discussions.

Run through last year's squad and you'll notice Renshaw, Peter Handscomb, Ashton Agar, Todd Murphy, and Michael Neser have all played Test cricket

since. Skipper Josh Inglis is keeping for Australia at the World Cup, and Aaron Hardie made his international limited overs debut.

"It's a really important fixture for them to be able to put their best foot forward. It is a genuine audition this year and for years to come," Thornton said.

"We know that Warner is probably hanging up the boots at the end of this international summer, so for a young opener to come through the PM's XI and put their best foot forward in this fixture, what an opportunity.

"There are lots of people putting their hand up at the moment. Whoever does come to town, no doubt they'll be up and firing. If they play well and get runs on the board, who knows where that could land for them for the coming season."

THE COMET

Remember when Jono Dean belted his way to a Big Bash contract and Djali Bloomfield skittled Sri Lankans in Superman socks?

If there was ever a time to bring an ACT player back

'Boring' Crows desperate to rebound against Swans

AFLW

Steve Larkin

ADELAIDE stalwart Ebony Marinoff says her side was "boring" in their upset loss to Brisbane in an AFLW qualifying final.

The Crows slipped to a two-point defeat to the Lions which pitches the minor premiers into a sudden-death semi-final against Sydney this Saturday night.

"We're obviously bitterly disappointed," Marinoff told reporters on Monday.

"We certainly feel like it's

a missed opportunity. But in saying that, we earned the right to have a double chance."

The Crows dominated key statistics against the Lions, with 11 more entries into their attacking 50 metre arc, 64 more disposals, and boasting the top-seven individual ball-winners on the ground.

But Marinoff said Adelaide's lack of daring ball use cost them victory.

"We probably weren't brave, we were just playing the game safe, and playing finals safe is not how it's going

to be won," the five-time All Australian said.

"We need to be bold and brave and we'll look to rectify that come Saturday. It comes back to the way we move the footy - we were just being boring and going down the line.

"You got to change angles and break the Lions' defence.

"And when the game was on the line, they sent a few back and we had some spares back behind the ball - and we don't need to have spares at that point in time, we need to win the game."

Marinoff vowed the Crows would rapidly learn from their loss.

"It's actually a really good learning point for some of our younger girls," she said.

"We had a few girls playing their first or second final so hopefully they can learn from those moments, as can we all. It's good to be challenged in the first weekend of finals and have things to work on. As a group we're really hungry and we know we need to be at our best but ... it's so exciting for the competition to have these finals."



Jade Ellenger of the Lions is tackled by Ebony Marinoff in their AFLW qualifying final. Picture AAP



Scott Murn, above, could be in the mix if a Comet is selected, while Nathan Lyon, left, has captained the PM's XI in the past. Pictures by WA Cricket, Jamila Toderas

into the fold for the Prime Minister's XI, it's now. The Comets have just returned to the national second XI competition and return of a genuine pathway through Canberra has the region's best players salivating.

"In previous years, we've had an opportunity. Even the likes of their current coach, Jono Dean, he made his way through the PM's XI. I know those conversations are taking place with Stuart Karpinnen at the moment," Thornton said.

"Last year we had young Zac Keogh and Blake Faunce

as 12th and 13th, and they are now both members of that Comets team. Having that connection through to our local Comets side is really important because it does provide them with a little bit of a carrot.

"Equally [they're in] the box seat in terms of [seeing] how those more senior players prepare for the games. We can't underestimate the importance of those connection points."

THE GOAT

Wishful thinking, but how about Nathan Lyon?

Australia's third leading Test wicket-taker of all time is just four shy of claiming 500 scalps and the off-spinner would attract plenty of interest from punters and pundits alike.

Lyon has returned for NSW after a calf injury derailed his Ashes campaign and another four-day game in Canberra would give him one final chance to dust off the cobwebs before the Test summer.

Oh, and have we mentioned he used to be a groundsman at Manuka Oval?

Parish believes McKay can be game-changer for Bombers

AFL

Oliver Caffrey

ESSENDON midfielder Darcy Parish is expecting to owe Ben McKay a "couple of beers" for the work the key recruit will perform in defence for the Bombers.

Parish met his new teammate for the first time on Monday as Essendon launched a new major co-partner, Dutton Automotive.

Free agent McKay was the headline acquisition of Essendon's productive

trade period, alongside Jade Gresham (St Kilda), Xavier Duursma (Port Adelaide) and Todd Goldstein (North Melbourne).

The former North Melbourne defender is a towering presence, standing at 202 cm and weighing 104 kg.

"We've probably lacked someone of his size and calibre the last couple of years so he's going to fit straight into our backline along with so many good players we've got down there as well," Parish said of McKay.

"It's going to be great to see him intercepting balls. He will probably help us out a fair bit. I'll owe him a couple beers at the end of next season."

McKay believes Essendon's defence can become a strength for them as he joins the likes of Jordan Ridley, Mason Redman and Jayden Laverde down back.

"I think the flexibility and the height down there can be something we can really use, and obviously Andy (McGrath) and those guys running off (half-back) as

'Unplayable' Zampa has Aussies on cusp of a World Cup final

CRICKET

Ian Chadband

AUSTRALIA'S World Cup hunters have flourished and grown stronger during the group stages, with Adam Zampa ending the marathon nine-match programme as the tournament's leading wicket-taker and Glenn Maxwell its most devastating scorer.

The statistics after the five-week slog to get to this week's semi-finals demonstrate just how a handful of the key players in Pat Cummins' team have hit their most formidable form just at the right time going into Thursday's last-four clash with South Africa in Kolkata.

Among the batters, Virat Kohli's 50 in the final match against the Netherlands on Sunday put the Indian great at the top of the leading run-scorers, having amassed 594 runs. But there are three Australians in the top 11, with all the question marks hanging over David Warner dispelled by the 37-year-old accumulating 499 runs from his nine innings to be fifth top-scorer.

Mitchell Marsh's emotional hundred in their final match against Bangladesh gives him 426 from eight digs in seventh place, while Maxwell is 11th with 397 in seven innings.

But Maxwell, whose incredible unbeaten 201 not out against Afghanistan was the only double-century of the group stages, has the best strike-rate of any batter in the tournament, scoring his runs at 152.69.

Second in the list is Travis Head, who has been scoring at a rate of 144.44, while in the six-hitting list Maxwell's 22 maximums have only been bettered by India captain Rohit Sharma's 24. Nobody, though, scored runs in a single innings quicker than captain Cummins, whose 37 off 14 balls against New Zealand at Dharamsala came at the unfeasible rate of 264.28.

Zampa has been the tournament's standout tweaker, with his tournament-best haul of 22 wickets - at an average of 18.90 and with an economy rate of 5.26 - now four clear of any other bowler left in the last-four.

Daniel Vettori, Australia's spinners' coach, paid the 31-year-old Zampa a handsome tribute over the weekend, describing how he's become almost "unplayable".



Adam Zampa's form has fired Australia into the semi-finals. Picture AAP

It is all about the length of control for him ... all the other skills are there.

Daniel Vettori on Adam Zampa

"He obviously had a very difficult start through injuries and illness to be able to actually play, and probably the first three games was an amazing effort because he was pretty close to pulling out against Pakistan.," Kiwi Vettori said.

"His control of his length since has been the best I've seen.

"We all know the skills and the variations, but his ability to actually just land the ball on the spot time and time again gave most teams limited opportunities to attack him. It is all about the length of control for him, because all the other skills are there.

"But when you combine them with that aspect of his game as well, he's almost unplayable."

AT A GLANCE

WORLD CUP SEMI-FINALS
Wednesday: India v New Zealand, Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, 7:30pm (AEDT).
Thursday: South Africa v Australia, Eden Gardens, Kolkata, 7:30pm (AEDT).

well," the 25-year-old said. "It's a nice blend of height and running."

Essendon's first-to-four year players returned to training on Monday with coach Brad Scott's message at the end of last season still ringing in their ears.

After the Bombers' 2023 campaign faltered badly during the final eight weeks, Scott pleaded with the group to take "extraordinary measures" to compete with the best teams.

"There's a difference between training hard, and

I think everyone trains hard, to what an AFL lifestyle looks like," Scott said after Essendon's round 24 thumping by premiers Collingwood.

"We need a bigger core group of leaders who can set the example."

A number of Bombers players embarked on a trip to Arizona for a high altitude training camp, at their own expense, during the off-season.

Asked if the Bombers had taken notice of Scott's assessment, Paris said: "I bloody hope so."

"You'd want to come back in good nick, you get found out pretty quick if you don't," he said.

"If you're not ready, you're going to be playing a lot of catch up, and we're not waiting for anyone to catch up."

McKay was impressed by Scott's pitch and the club's determination to bridge the gap with the AFL's best.

Essendon will go into next season still searching for their first finals win since 2004.

"Their work ethic has been really strong," he said.

The Canberra Times

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ATTACK IS BACKReilly returns after WNBL
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'THEY'RE LEGENDS OF THIS CLUB'

The Raiders say they'll give Elliott Whitehead and Jordan Rapana time and space to decide whether the 2024 season will be their last in the NRL.

ALSO INSIDE:

- Raiders look at NRLW venues
- Full 2024 fixtures

Pictures by Eles Kurtz, Keegan Carroll

Raiders remember the Titan

RUGBY LEAGUE

Melanie Dinjaski

THE Canberra Raiders just can't quit David Fifita.

Reports of the Titans back-rower technically becoming a free agent on November 1 has opened the door for the Raiders to swoop in and make a play at signing the Queenslander once more.

Despite extending with the Titans for another three years in August, a contract clause could give Fifita until round 10 next season to

decide if he will remain on the Gold Coast for 2025 or move elsewhere.

The clause is reportedly designed to give Fifita time to determine if he is comfortable working under new Titans coach Des Hasler, after Justin Holbrook's sacking.

Canberra were actively chasing Fifita before he extended with the Titans, and after recent developments they are set to throw their hat in the ring again.

"I'm sure Ricky [Stuart] will ring his agent," Raiders chief executive Don Furner

told *The Canberra Times*. "You've got to have a real go at quality players. If they stay at their own club, it's not a loss really.

"He's got his best footy ahead of him, so we'll definitely be keeping a close eye on that one."

It all makes for an intriguing visit to the capital for Fifita and the Titans come round six, where speculation on his future will surely follow.

Fifita's agent declined to comment on specific clauses in the Origin star's contract, but said they had no plans

to go back to the open market after twice fielding offers this year.

The Raiders' 2024 draw was released on Monday, revealing that Canberra's season will begin on March 7 in Newcastle.

Furner was pleased with the "well-rounded" draw, with "blockbuster games" at home against South Sydney, Parramatta, Penrith and the Roosters, and that the club's request for day-time games in winter when possible, was heard.

One new Raider that prob-

ably won't have a hard time adjusting to the Canberra cold is Englishman, Morgan Smithies.

Furner was able to divulge more details about how they managed to secure the services of the international Wigan forward on a three-year deal.

"We'd talked about him before, but Wigan weren't going to release him," Furner said. "Then he really pushed the point of getting a release, we paid the release fee and we got him out early. They don't always do that.

"The club possibly thought, well, he's won a grand final with us, we've won a grand final with him. So I think it helped us and a week or two after the grand final they wrote back and said yes."

The 22-year-old will arrive in Canberra in top form, fresh off winning the Super League grand final, and Furner is hoping he'll emulate the other English Raiders.

"If he's half as good as Elliott Whitehead has been for us, he'll be fantastic," Furner said.